OSAMU TEZUKA

SWALLOWING THE EARTH

地球を呑む

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DMP
Platinum

FOREWORD

BY FREDERIK L. SCHODT

When Osamu Tezuka created *Swallowing the Earth* in 1968, the world was a very different place.

There were cars and airplanes and televisions, but few people had ever seen a real computer and no one had yet dreamed of an "Internet." I was a senior at an international high school in Tokyo that year, and the instruction was in English, so we occasionally used English typewriters. Outside the school, Japan had still not entered the typewriter phase of civilization, so unless professionally typeset and printed, nearly everything was hand-written.

No one worried about global warming. In additional to normal adolescent stuff I recall mostly worrying about two macrocosmic things. One was the Cold War, and the possibility of being vaporized in a nuclear explosion. The other was the Vietnam War, which, for the American students in my school, meant that we could be drafted upon graduation. It never seemed very far away. There were lots of American military bases in Japan in those days (and still are, including Yokota, which features in this manga), and in early 1968, the hospitals on them were filled with wounded G.I.s.

World War II was also not so far removed from our minds in 1968, because, whether Japanese or American, our parents had lived through it as civilians or—like the wizened father of this story's protagonist—in the military. We all knew that Japan's major cities had been razed in the not-so-distant past, and that millions had died. By 1968, Japan had risen like a phoenix from the ashes of defeat, and its economy was booming, but it was not yet the confident technological giant it is today. Many homes in Tokyo did not have flush toilets, or baths, and the average caloric intake was far less than today, which is probably why people were not as tall as they are now, either.

I mention these things because while Tezuka was a visionary, he was also a product of his times, and strong overtones of 1968 ring throughout *Swallowing the Earth*.

1968 was a year of big changes, in the world and in Japan. Tezuka had already traveled extensively abroad, but he was an exception, because few Japanese then could easily visit other countries, despite being fascinated with the outside world (and especially with America). The news media was filled with accounts of race riots in the United States, and political unrest. Martin Luther King was assassinated in April of 1968, the same month that Tezuka began serializing *Swallowing the Earth*. Robert Kennedy was assassinated two months later. In Prague, a brief flowering of democracy occurred before being brutally crushed by Soviet tanks. In Paris, the student revolution erupted in May and nearly brought down the French government. In Japan, the streets of Tokyo were regularly convulsed with enormous demonstrations by students and workers opposed to their nation's security treaty with the United States, and its complicity with the Vietnam War.

Youth culture, in particular, had started to assert itself politically and culturally around the world in 1968, including in Japan, which was then far more socially conservative than it is now. America seemed to be the source of nearly everything interesting in pop culture, and many Japanese, including Tezuka, were fascinated by news of something burbling out of San Francisco called the "hippy" movement, with its associations with intoxicating music, "free love," and psychedelic drugs such as LSD, which feature in this manga.

When Tezuka started serializing *Swallowing the Earth* in 1968, he was forty years old. Too young to have fought in World War II, but old enough to have been psychologically scarred by it, like many others his age, he was deeply anti-war and mistrustful of governments. He was already famous. He had helped launch the modern

manga revolution and with his animation company, Mushi Productions, had put in place the template for today's huge anime industry. Five years earlier, in 1963, with Mushi Productions, he had created Japan's first animated TV series, *Astro Boy*, which had been sold into the U.S. market amid a great swelling of Japanese national pride.

The manga market in 1968 bore little resemblance to the gargantuan industry it is today. I later became a great manga fan, but that year I had been in Japan only a short time and did not yet speak Japanese. Still, it is hard for me to believe now that I have no recollection of ever hearing of Tezuka then. Nor do I have recollection of seeing many manga. Nor do I remember any of my friends – many of whom were Japanese, or Americans fluent in Japanese – reading them. To most of us, I suspect, manga were still something for younger children, and perhaps "uncool."

Swallowing the Earth is often said to be Tezuka's first foray into long-format "story manga," and as such, it is a particularly fascinating work to read. It was serialized between April, 1968 and July, 1969 in *Big Comic*, a then brand-new, mass-market, manga monthly (now bi-weekly) for young men.

Prior to 1968, Tezuka had been known mainly as a children's manga artist. In the 1960s, however, he faced competition from younger artists who reacted against his Disney-esque style and drew in the more mature and realistic *gekiga*, or "drama pictures" style. As comics began to develop an older readership, Tezuka feared he was losing his touch. In *Swallowing the Earth*, for this new and growing young adult male readership, he used a more "realistic" drawing style and incorporated more eroticism, provocative themes, and indirect references to history and current events. He also downplayed the eccentric "star" system he often employed in other works, wherein the same characters might be used in different roles in different stories, like a theater troupe. (Tezuka fans will, however, notice the occasional appearance of his stock characters like "Lamp".) Even for the highly experimental Tezuka, *Swallowing the Earth* was quite a gamble, but it foreshadowed many other sophisticated adult works he would later create—such as the socially-conscious *Ode to Kirihito*, or the psycho-sexual *MW*, both of which were also serialized in *Big Comic*.

As Tezuka later wrote in an afterword to *Swallowing the Earth*, he at first wasn't sure how to proceed. The editor of *Big Comic* had asked him to create a long-format, serialized drama, but many of the other contributing artists were drawing shorter, concluding stories. Tezuka worried about his ability to keep reader interest from flagging in the middle of a long work, and sure enough, he occasionally nearly loses control. Sometimes the protagonist, Gohonmatsu, doesn't appear at all, and the story veers off in unexpected tangents, nearly running aground in the process, but it always rights itself and never fails to be fascinating. Always too hard on himself, Tezuka later wrote, "The work was supposed to be a parody of the panic that might occur in the [world's] economic and distribution system if the value of gold declined to zero, but it ultimately turned into a dud, leaving only an alcoholic character for the protagonist."

Tezuka was an intensely intellectual and curious person, and if anything his greatest weakness was a tendency to incorporate too many ideas into his work. He was nonetheless capable of a nearly superhuman productivity, and the period in which he created *Swallowing the Earth* was no exception. In fact, it is amazing that he was able to finish the story at all. With his company, Mushi Productions, he was turning his manga work into multiple animated TV series. And he was drawing manga almost promiscuously: not only in mainstream manga magazines, but in a semi-avant-garde manga magazine published by his own company, and in regular magazines and newspapers. Though Tezuka loved to draw, he also needed to earn money, as his animation company was already in dire straits, and five years later would crash in bankruptcy.

Swallowing the Earth was a bold experiment for Tezuka, and it also reveals the scale of his feverish imagination at the time. Positioned as a surreal satire, it takes

on social, economic, sexual, and even racial issues. The sexual angle was particularly provocative, for as a children's artist, Tezuka had been somewhat constrained in his subject matter. In *Big Comic*, however, he was free to push the envelope of the day, but his depiction of the seductress, Zephyrus, also evokes the tastes of his time. Today's erotic ideal in male manga magazines is often a ridiculously young-looking Lolita or Moe-style Japanese female; in 1968, it was far more likely to be a buxom, mature woman, and often a blonde and liberated foreigner.

When satirizing race relations, Tezuka unfortunately drew in a style that would later cause problems. Like most artists of his generation, he tended to draw Africans, African Americans, and even South Pacific islanders in styles borrowed from American cartoonists, but was oblivious to the racism that had originally influenced these styles. As a result, even when Tezuka is trying to stress an anti-racism theme, his drawing style can create misunderstandings. After his death in 1989, when a certain amount of globalization occurred in the manga world and a "political correctness" movement ensued, some of the drawings in *Swallowing the Earth* became an issue—especially when they were taken out of context or viewed by non-Japanese who could not read the story in its entirety. This is one reason why all of Tezuka's works are published in Japan today with a disclaimer, letting readers know that, although some images may appear offensive, this was never Tezuka's intent. In 1968, manga were still like a private conversation, rarely overheard by anyone outside of a small community in Japan, and artists tended not to worry much about how their work might be perceived by others. Thus, in *Swallowing the Earth*, big nosed and hairy Caucasian characters may appear in a less than flattering light. Occasionally even Japanese characters—such the buck-toothed, slant-eyed Japanese-American interpreter character—are depicted in racist styles first pioneered by American cartoonists.

When Tezuka let his imagination run loose, the result could be quite wild, and in *Swallowing the Earth* we see him developing his story in an almost anarchic fashion. Page layouts, while hardly unusual today, for the time were quite avant-garde. The story is a satire, so Tezuka felt no compunction in filling his story with gags, or in combining the serious with the hilarious, or in shifting time forward and backward. And in this sense, the story is post-modern in its structure.

While *Swallowing the Earth* has a truly global setting, the main character—the alcoholic Gohonmatsu Seki—is a very Japanese male character. In the rough language he uses, and in his tough yet gentle personality, he is a sort of Japanese version of Al Capp's Li'l Abner—from the impoverished working-class, hard-living, with little education but lots of street smarts and charm, and often pursued by women. In juxtaposing a working class Japanese 'everyman' with a cast of sophisticated global characters, Tezuka makes his story even more entertaining.

Despite his misgivings, Tezuka wound up creating something very new, for even today *Swallowing the Earth* gives readers a wild ride. American audiences have thus far been exposed to translations of Tezuka's early children's works, and to his later, adult-themed works, but little in between. Digital Manga deserves a tip of the hat for publishing this work, for it allows fans of Tezuka to see how he began to make the transition from a children's artist, to someone who could push the manga medium to the limit in every genre, even for adult readers. It is for good reason that Tezuka is called *manga no kamisama*, or the "god of comics."

Frederik L. Schodt is the author of *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*, *Dreamland Japan: Writings on Modern Manga*, and *The Astro Boy Essays: Osamu Tezuka, Mighty Atom, and the Manga/Anime Revolution*. He has also translated numerous manga works by Tezuka, and in the past occasionally served as Tezuka's interpreter. In 2000, he won the special prize in the Asahi newspaper's *Osamu Tezuka Culture Award*. He has a website at http://www.jpt2.com/

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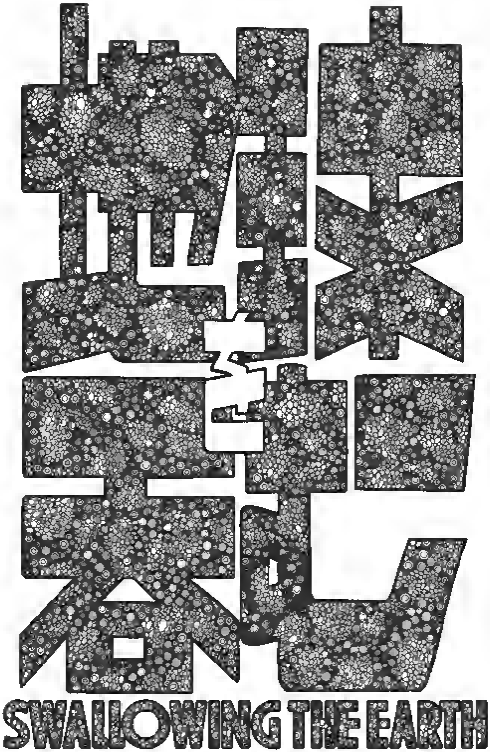
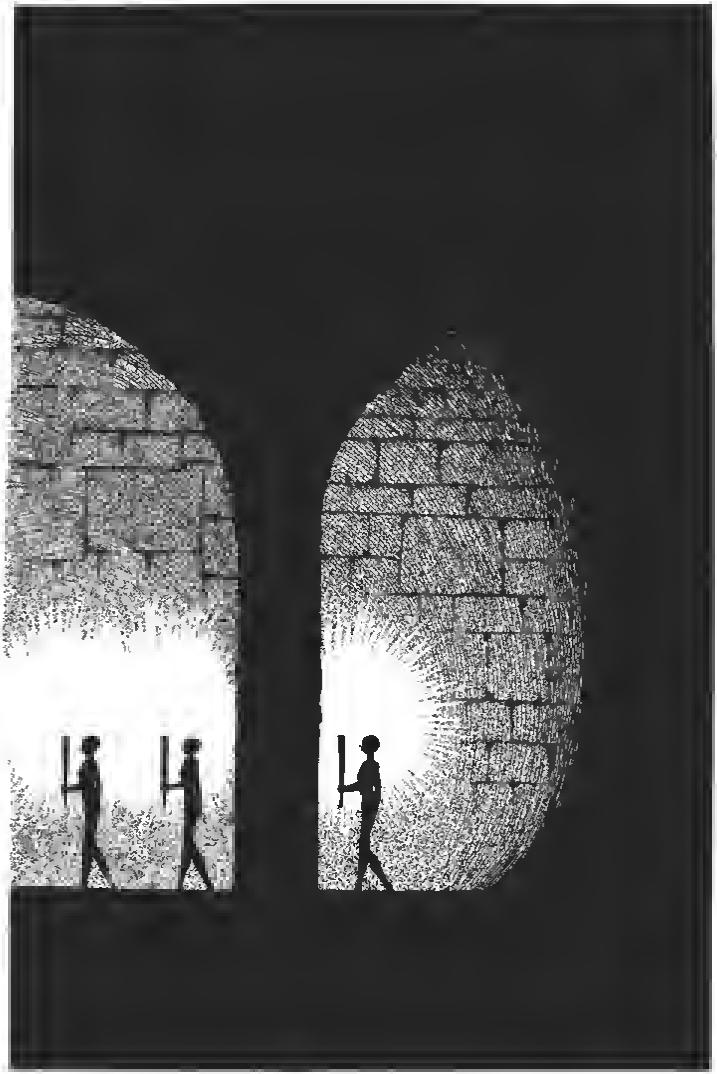
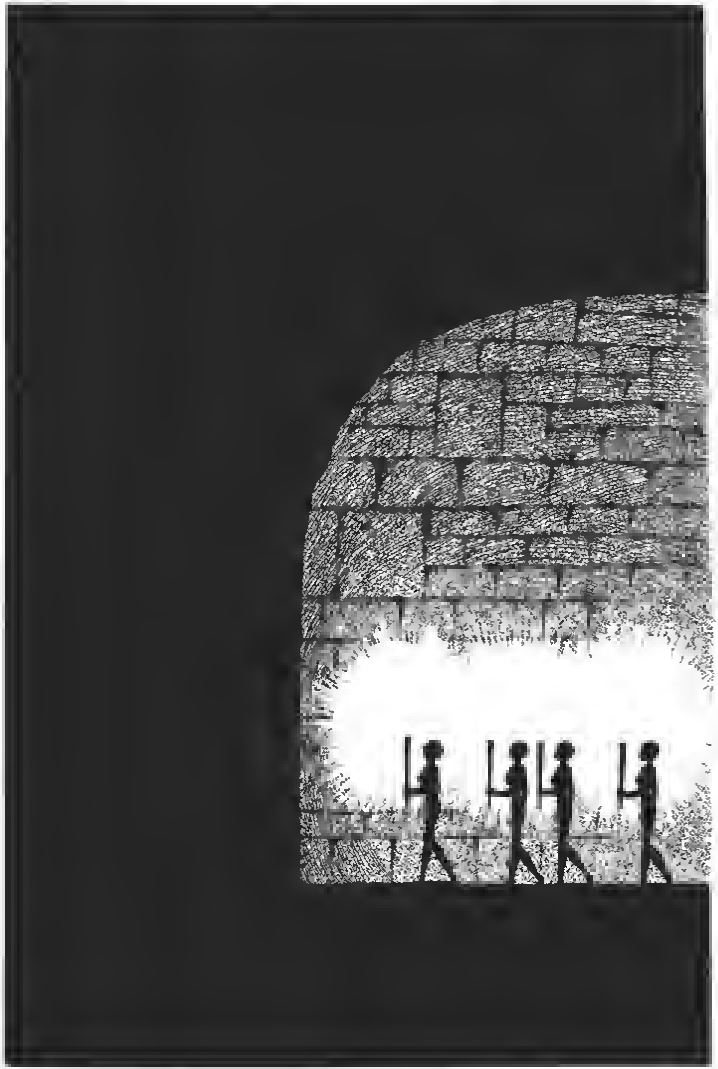
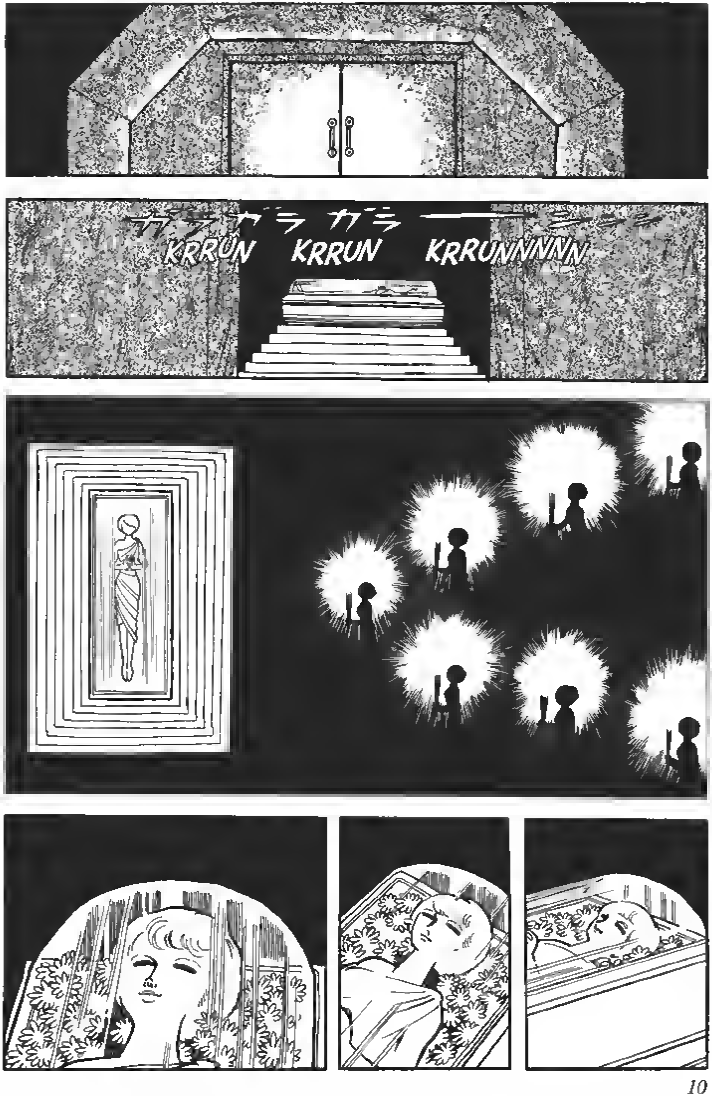

SWALLOWING THE EARTH

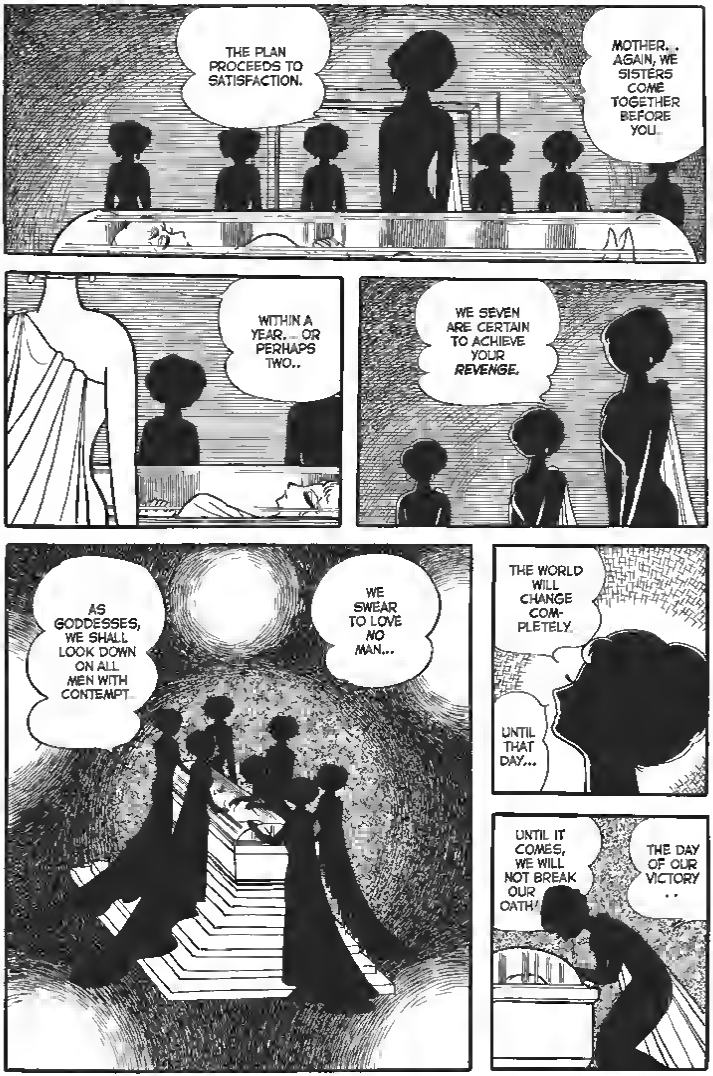
CHAPTER 1

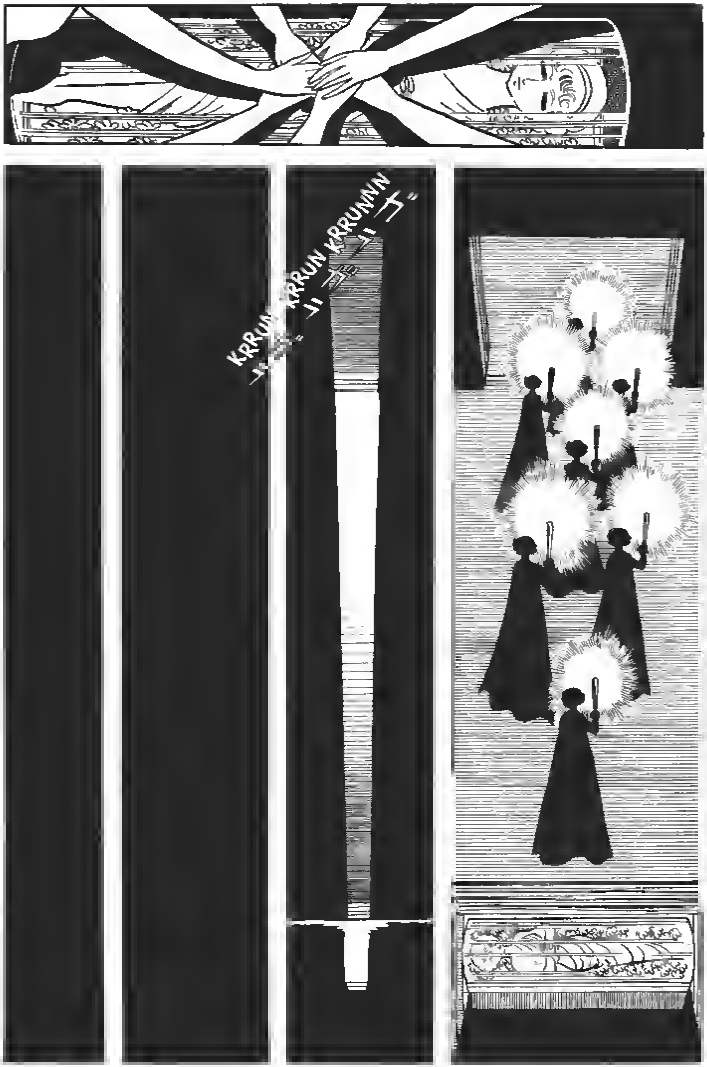
PRELUDE





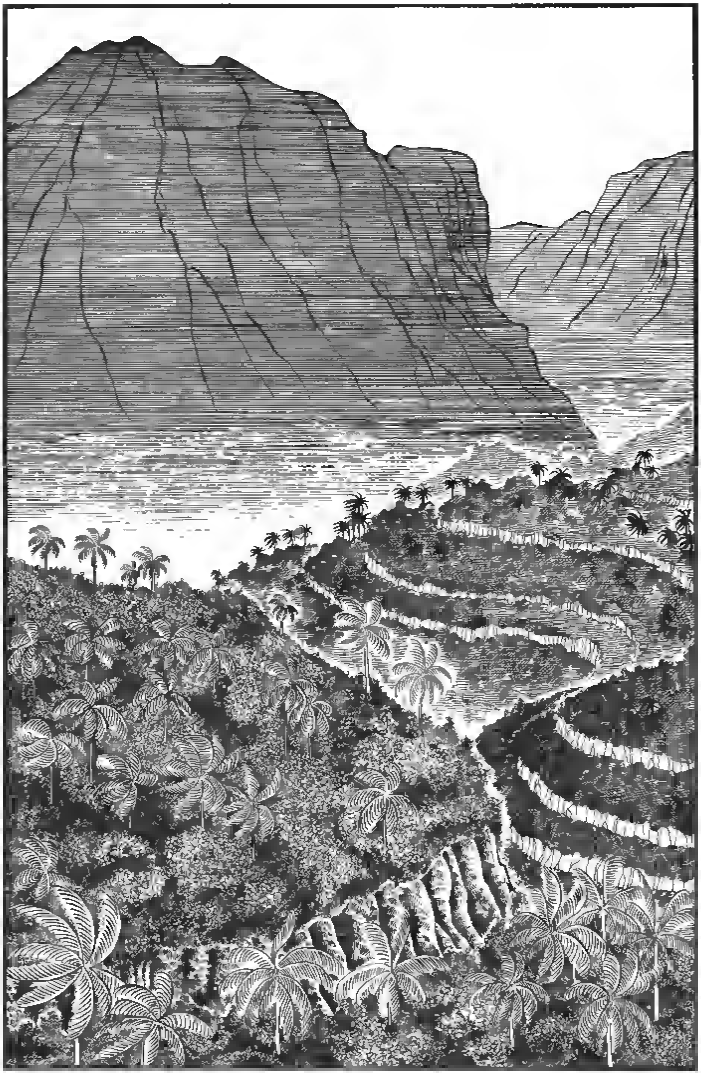

KRRUN KRRUN KRRUNNNNN

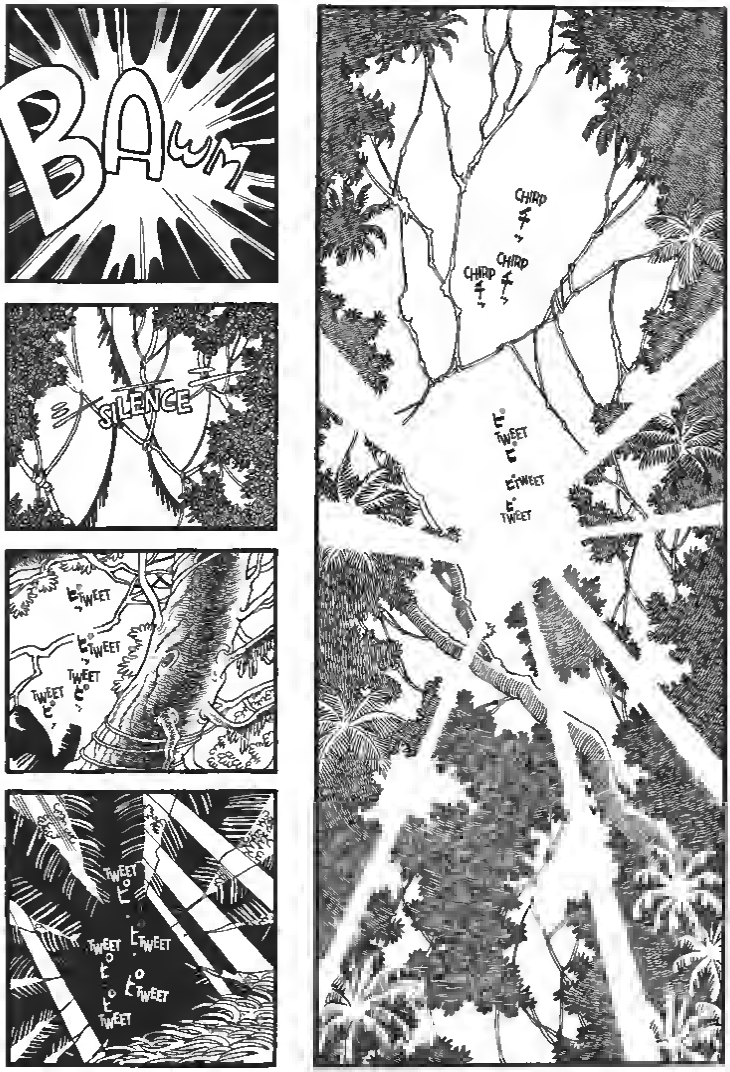

THE PLAN PROCEEDS TO SATISFACTION.
MOTHER... AGAIN, WE SISTERS COME TOGETHER BEFORE YOU.
WITHIN A YEAR... OR PERHAPS TWO..
WE SEVEN ARE CERTAIN TO ACHIEVE YOUR *REVENGE.*
AS GODDESSES, WE SHALL LOOK DOWN ON ALL MEN WITH CONTEMPT.
WE SWEAR TO LOVE NO MAN...
THE WORLD WILL CHANGE COMPLETELY.
UNTIL THAT DAY...
UNTIL IT COMES, WE WILL NOT BREAK OUR OATH!
THE DAY OF OUR VICTORY...

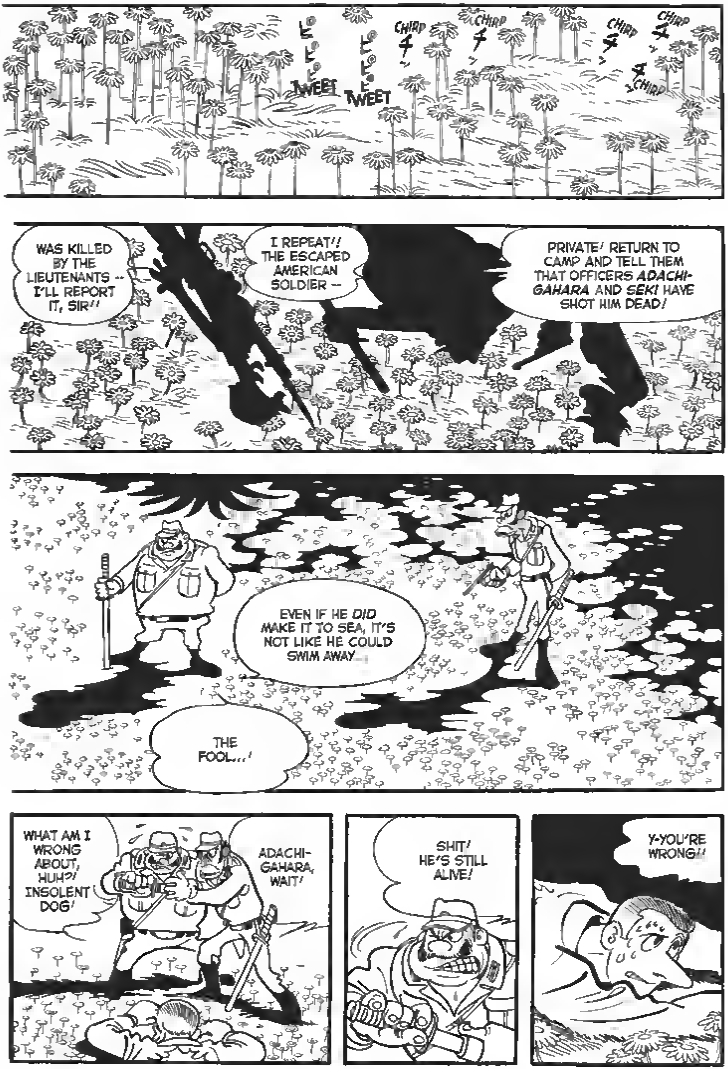

KRRUN KRRUN KRRUNNN

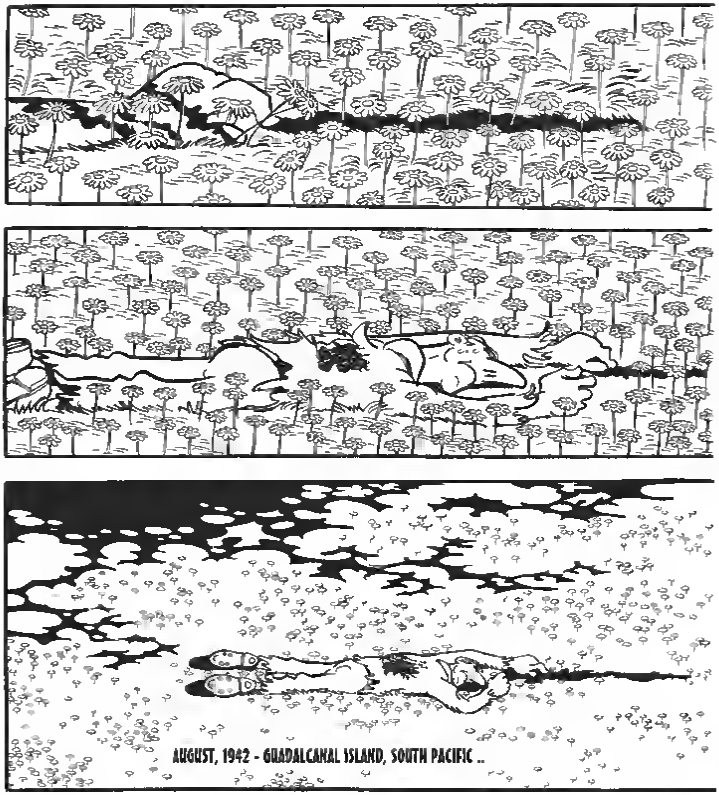
CHAPTER 2

PROLOGUE TO THE THEME

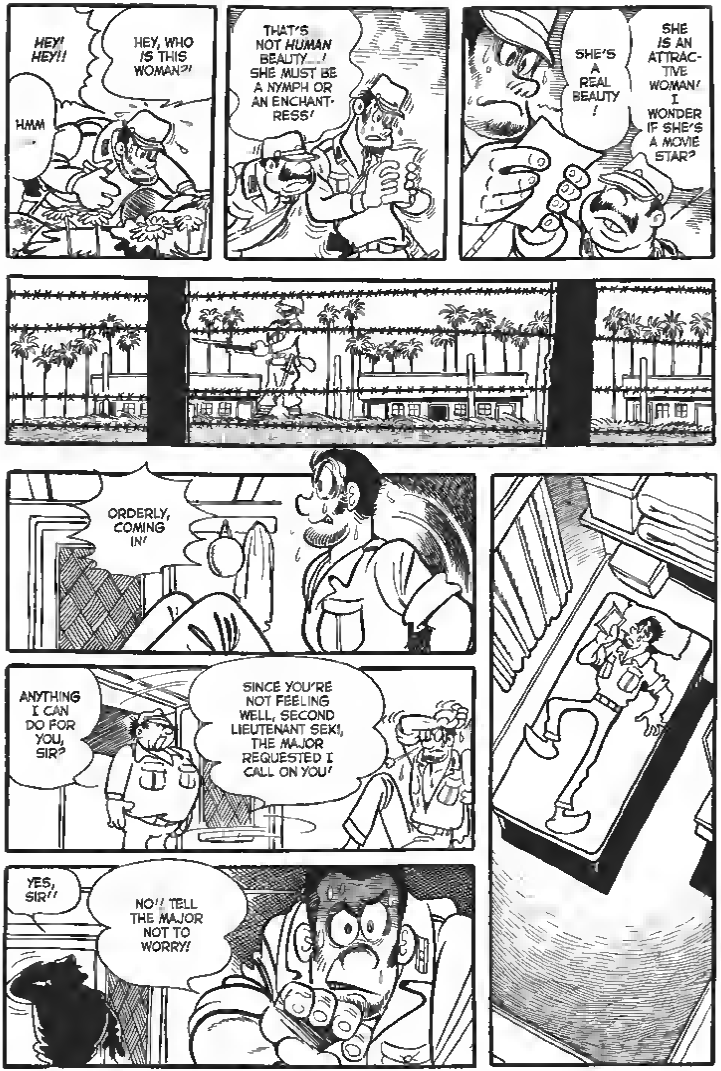



BAWM
SILENCE
TWEET
CHIRP


TWEET
TWEET
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
WAS KILLED BY THE LIEUTENANTS -- I'LL REPORT IT, SIR!!
I REPEAT!! THE ESCAPED AMERICAN SOLDIER --
PRIVATE! RETURN TO CAMP AND TELL THEM THAT OFFICERS ADACHI-GAHARA AND SEKI HAVE SHOT HIM DEAD!
EVEN IF HE DID MAKE IT TO SEA, IT'S NOT LIKE HE COULD SWIM AWAY
THE FOOL...!
WHAT AM I WRONG ABOUT, HUH?! INSOLENT DOG!
ADACHI-GAHARA, WAIT!
SHIT! HE'S STILL ALIVE!
Y-YOU'RE WRONG!!

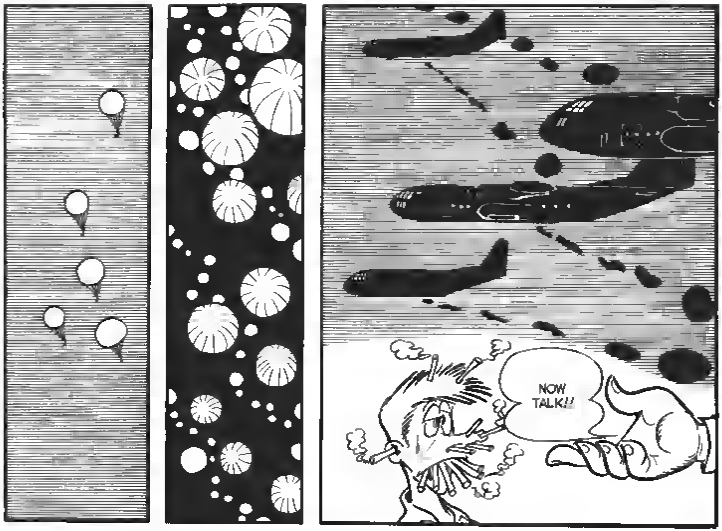

AUGUST, 1942 - GUADALCANAL ISLAND, SOUTH PACIFIC ..
ZEPHYRUS... ZEPHYRUS!
HE'S ON THE BRINK OF DEATH, AND STILL MAKING EXCUSES!
TRYING TO GIVE US YOUR LAST WORDS?
I... I DIDN'T ESCAPE... TO RETURN HOME...

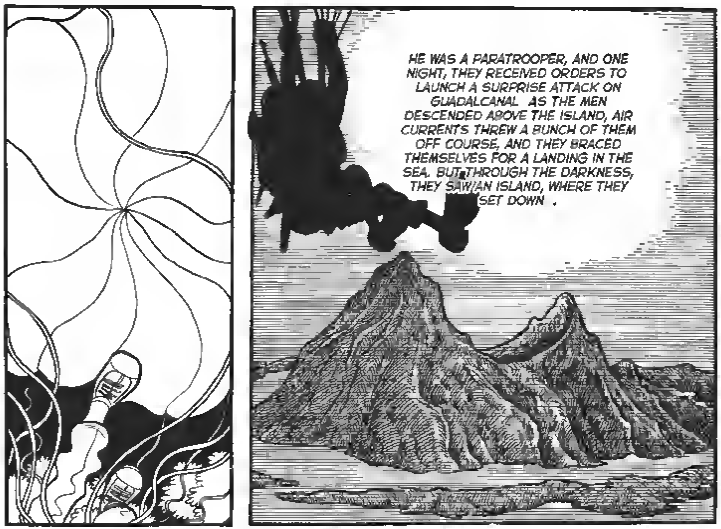
THESE YANKEES ARE SENTI-MENTAL, AREN'T THEY?
HMPH! PRATTLING ON ABOUT HIS GIRLFRIEND TO THE VERY END! HURRY UP AND DIE, WILL YOU?
I COULDN'T BEAR IT ZEPHYRUS" I JUST WANTED TO SEE HER ONCE MORE...
ZEPHYRUS .. I WAS SO DESPERATE...
IT ALONE WILL MAKE YOU WORSHIP HER .. AND DRIVE YOU MAD ..
H-HERE! THIS PICTURE!!
DIED WITH A CURIOUS SMILE ON HIS FACE.
LEMME SEE! HMM. WELL, MY...!

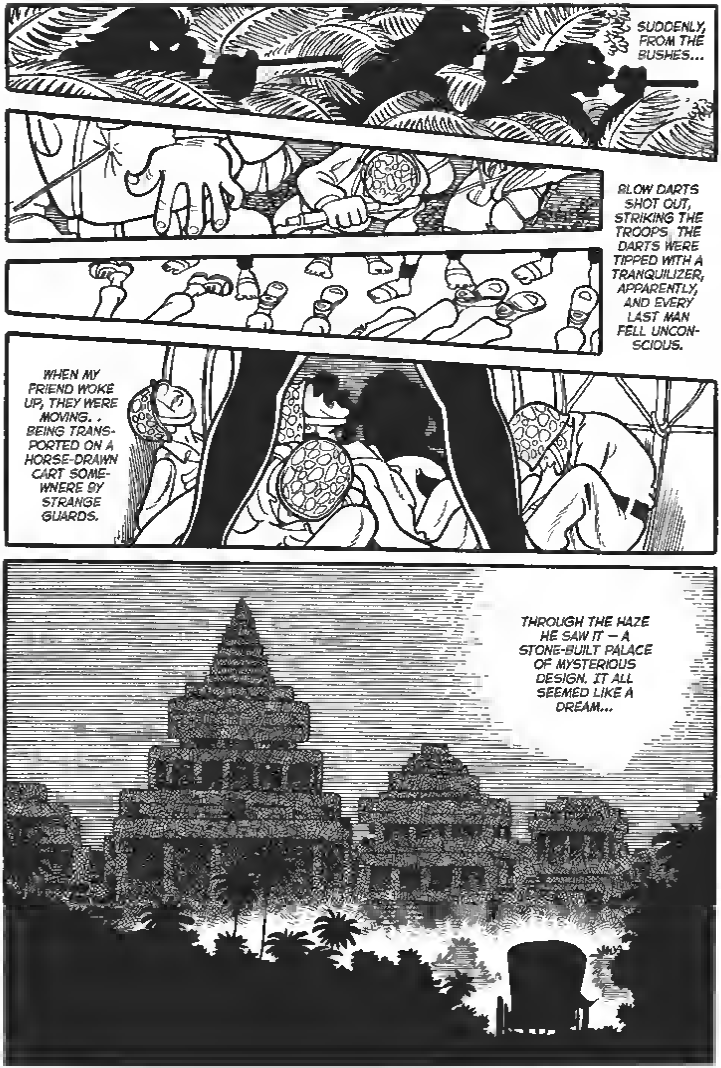

HEY! HEY!!
HEY, WHO IS THIS WOMAN?!
HMM
THAT'S NOT HUMAN BEAUTY...! SHE MUST BE A NYMPH OR AN ENCHANTRESS!
SHE'S A REAL BEAUTY!
SHE IS AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN! I WONDER IF SHE'S A MOVIE STAR?
ORDERLY, COMING IN!
ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, SIR?
SINCE YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, SECOND LIEUTENANT SEKI, THE MAJOR REQUESTED I CALL ON YOU!
YES, SIR!!
NO!! TELL THE MAJOR NOT TO WORRY!

ZEPHYRUS
...
ZEPHYRUS
...
TO MAKE ME SUFFER LIKE THIS -- ARE YOU ALIVE?! DO YOU EVEN EXIST?!
WHERE CAN I *FIND* THIS WOMAN?!
AAH .../ I CAN'T TAKE IT! I MUST BE GOING INSANE!
AH! DID YOU FIND OUT WHO SHE IS, ADACHIGAHARA?!
INSANE! INSANE!! SOON YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND IT EITHER!!
THIS IS A *REAL* PHOTO TAKEN OF HER! YOU HAVE TO FIND OUT ABOUT HER ***SOMEHOW!***
I WANT TO KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU DO, BUT. .
I SEARCHED THE MOVIE MAGAZINES WE CONFISCATED, BUT THERE'S NO SUCH WOMAN IN THEM.
NO...
SURELY SHE CAN'T BE AN *ORDINARY* PERSON ...?
EVERYTHING HE SAID WAS TRUE!

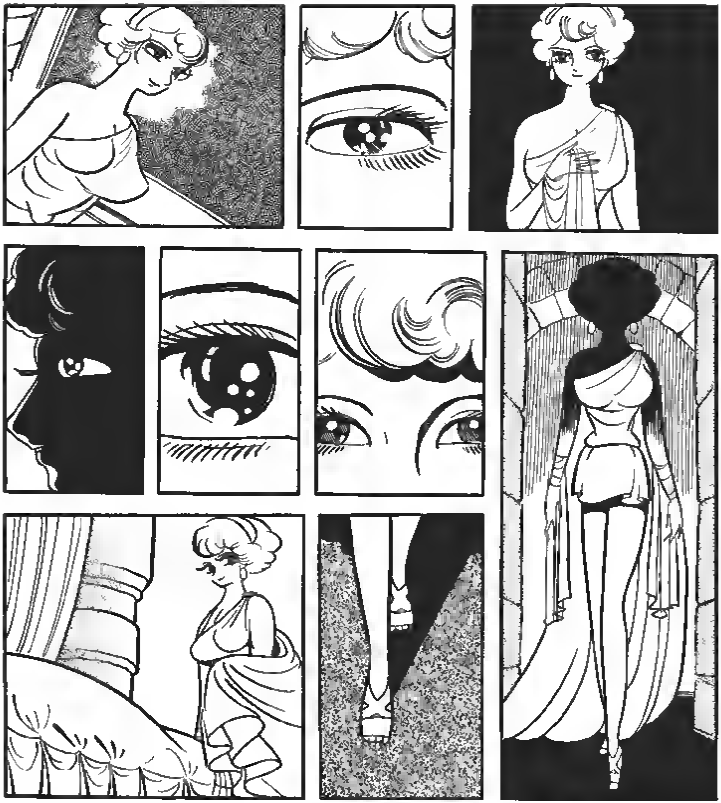
SILENCE
HAVE ANY OF YOU PRISONERS HEARD OF A WOMAN CALLED ZEPHYRUS?
PLEASE TELL US!
IF ANY-ONE KNOWS ...
(WHO'S SHE?)
(NOPE!!)
(NO!!)
WHAM
WAH HAH HAH
SHE SOME WOMAN WHO DUMPED YA? WHERE'D SHE RUN OFF TO? I'LL FIND HER FOR YA!
AS MANY AS YOU WANT!!
GOT ANY SMOKES ?
TELL ME!
I'M FROM THE 506TH AIRBORNE DIVISION. A FRIEND TOLD ME HE MET THAT WOMAN – I'M SURE OF IT!
(HEY!! WAIT!!)


NOW TALK!!


HE WAS A PARATROOPER, AND ONE NIGHT, THEY RECEIVED ORDERS TO LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK ON GUADALCANAL. AS THE MEN DESCENDED ABOVE THE ISLAND, AIR CURRENTS THREW A BUNCH OF THEM OFF COURSE, AND THEY BRACED THEMSELVES FOR A LANDING IN THE SEA. BUT THROUGH THE DARKNESS, THEY SAW AN ISLAND, WHERE THEY SET DOWN.


SUDDENLY, FROM THE BUSHES...
BLOW DARTS SHOT OUT, STRIKING THE TROOPS. THE DARTS WERE TIPPED WITH A TRANQUILIZER, APPARENTLY, AND EVERY LAST MAN FELL UNCONSCIOUS.
WHEN MY FRIEND WOKE UP, THEY WERE MOVING.. BEING TRANSPORTED ON A HORSE-DRAWN CART SOMEWHERE BY STRANGE GUARDS.
THROUGH THE HAZE HE SAW IT — A STONE-BUILT PALACE OF MYSTERIOUS DESIGN. IT ALL SEEMED LIKE A DREAM...

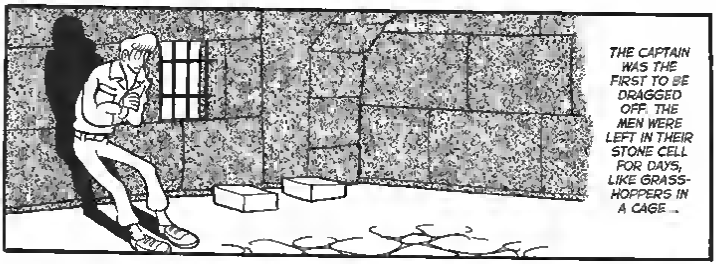
OMINOUS AS IT WAS, THE PALACE INTERIOR MESMERIZED HIM. IT WAS THERE MY FRIEND SAID HE MET HER... THE WOMAN NAMED ZEPHYRUS!!
BUT ZEPHYRUS WAS FAR TOO BEAUTIFUL TO BE CALLED A MERE WOMAN. SHE WAS THE SHINING LIGHT OF A STAR... NO LESS THAN A SPARKLING PEARL GIVEN HUMAN FORM...

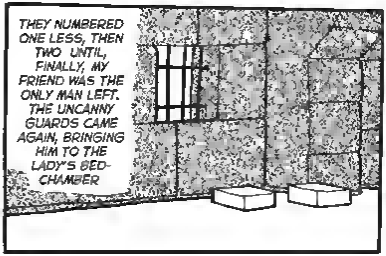


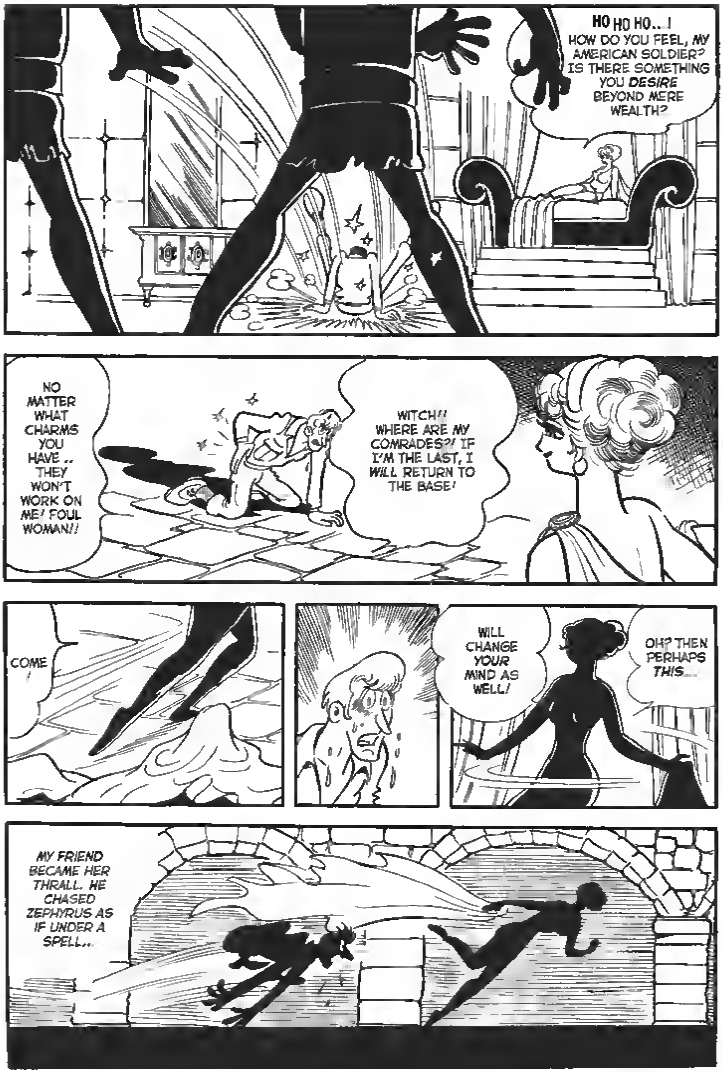
SHE SPOKE, SAYING SOMETHING LIKE, "WELCOME, YOUNG MEN. I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE EACH ONE OF YOU TO PERFORM FOR MY NIGHTLY PLEASURE." SHE ALLOWED NO REFUSAL.

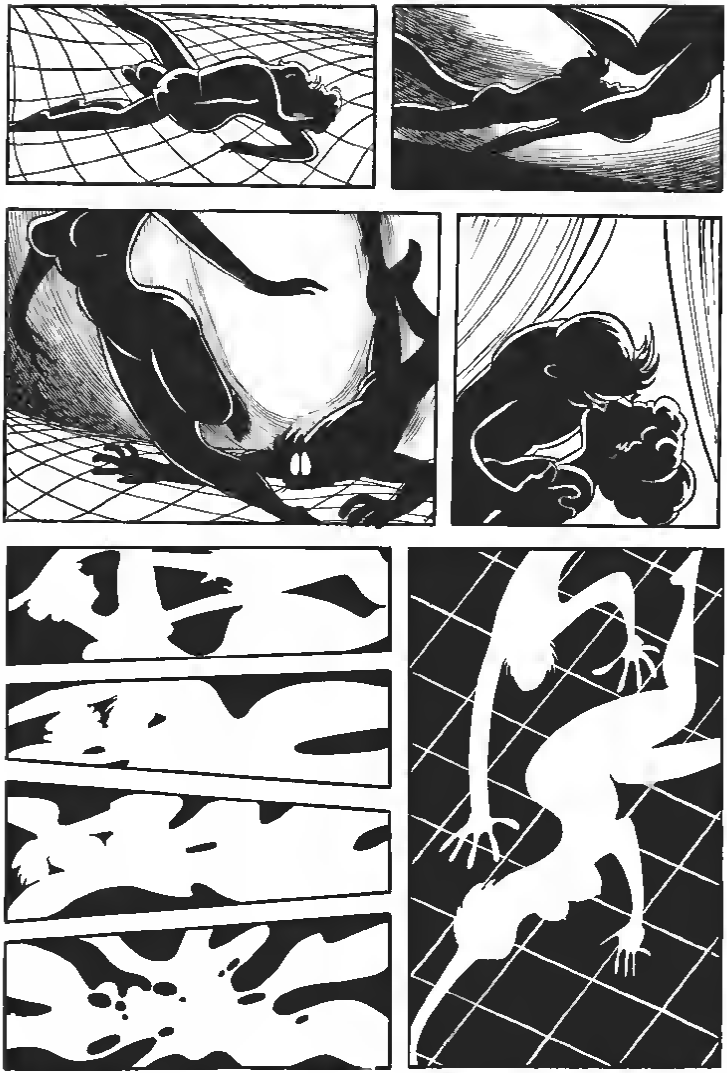
SHE'S A SIREN! A WITCH, I SAY! BE SHARP, EVERYONE. DON'T FORGET YOUR DUTY AS SOLDIERS!

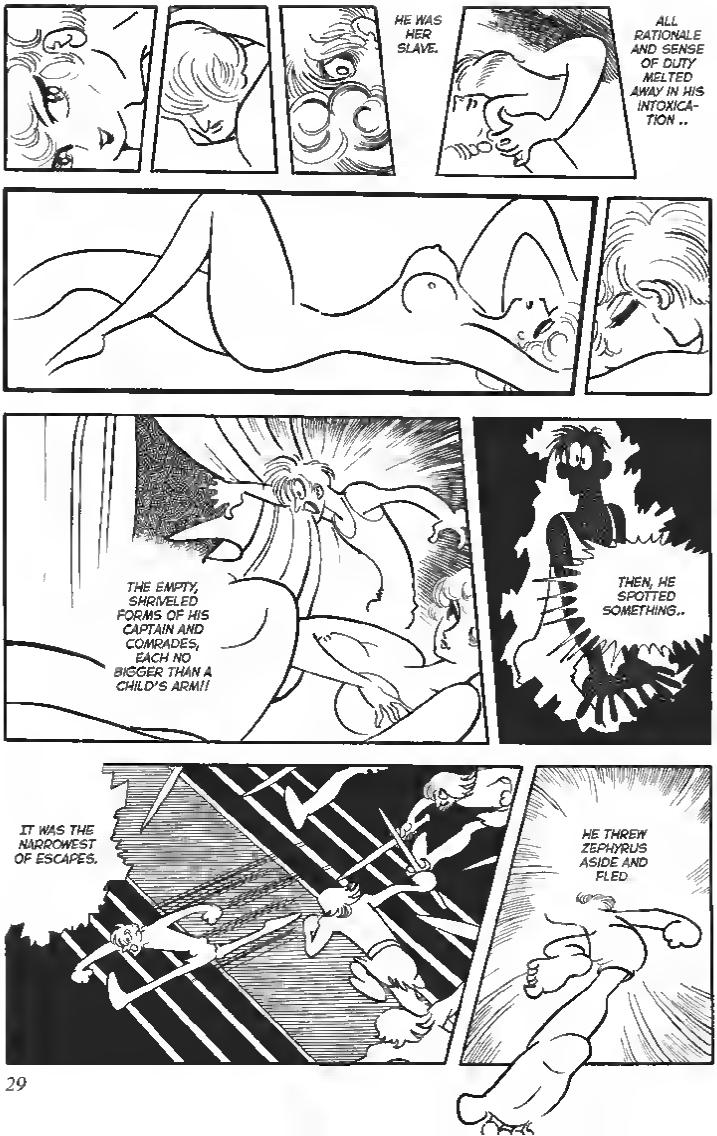
MAKE NO MISTAKE -- WE'LL ALL EITHER BE MURDERED OR MADE THAT WOMAN'S PLAYTHINGS! IF EVEN ONE MAN CAN SURVIVE, HE *MUST* ESCAPE FROM THIS ISLAND *GYAAH!!*


THE CAPTAIN WAS THE FIRST TO BE DRAGGED OFF. THE MEN WERE LEFT IN THEIR STONE CELL FOR DAYS, LIKE GRASS-HOPPERS IN A CAGE ...


THEY NUMBERED ONE LESS, THEN TWO UNTIL, FINALLY, MY FRIEND WAS THE ONLY MAN LEFT. THE UNCANNY GUARDS CAME AGAIN, BRINGING HIM TO THE LADY'S BED-CHAMBER

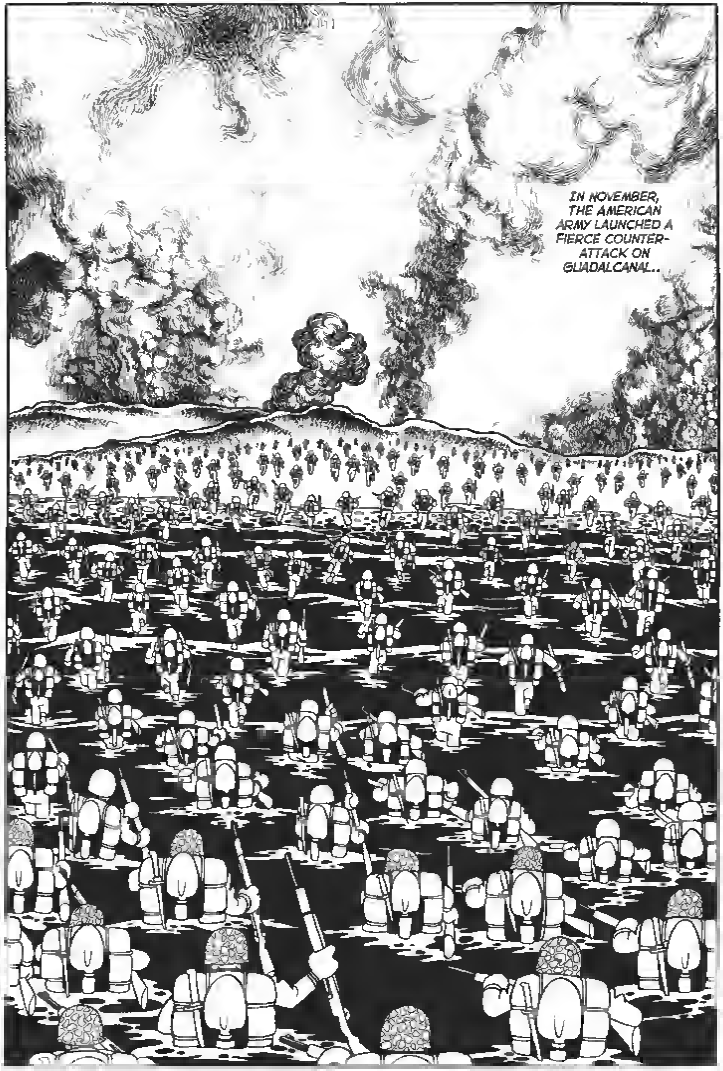

HO HO HO... ! HOW DO YOU FEEL, MY AMERICAN SOLDIER? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU DESIRE BEYOND MERE WEALTH?
NO MATTER WHAT CHARMS YOU HAVE .. THEY WON'T WORK ON ME! FOUL WOMAN!!
WITCH!! WHERE ARE MY COMRADES?! IF I'M THE LAST, I WILL RETURN TO THE BASE!
COME !
WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND AS WELL!
OH? THEN PERHAPS THIS....
MY FRIEND BECAME HER THRALL. HE CHASED ZEPHYRUS AS IF UNDER A SPELL...

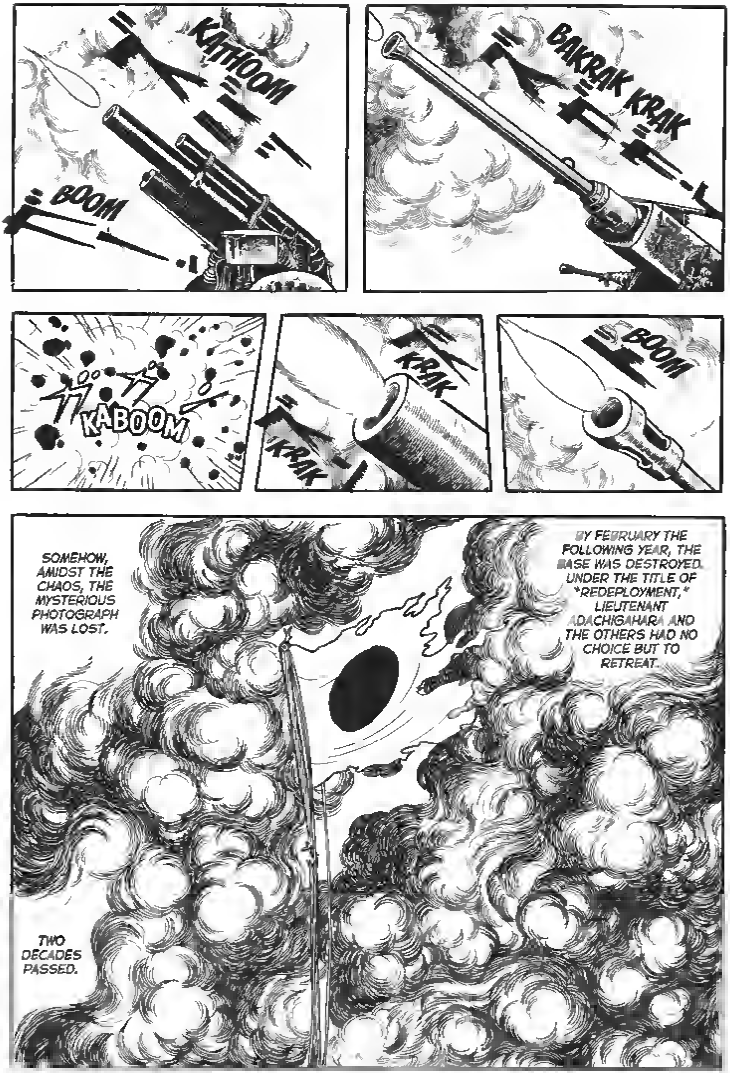



HE WAS HER SLAVE.
ALL RATIONALE AND SENSE OF DUTY MELTED AWAY IN HIS INTOXICATION ..
THE EMPTY, SHRIVELED FORMS OF HIS CAPTAIN AND COMRADES, EACH NO BIGGER THAN A CHILD'S ARM!!
THEN, HE SPOTTED SOMETHING..
IT WAS THE NARROWEST OF ESCAPES.
HE THREW ZEPHYRUS ASIDE AND FLED

HE KEPT REPEATING THE NAME "ZEPHYRUS" OVER AND OVER. THEY PUT HIM IN A HOSPITAL WARD, BUT HE TRIED TO RUN AWAY --
GONE MAD... AND SHOT DEAD!
CAN IT BE TRUE?! WHERE IS THIS MAN NOW?!!
HE TOLD EVERYONE ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE, BUT NO ONE BELIEVED HIM, OF COURSE
IN THE END, MY FRIEND SAID HE WAS THE ONLY MAN TO GET AWAY.
IF YOU TWO TRY TO FIND THAT ISLAND, YOU'LL BE WASTING YOUR TIME ..
ALL RIGHT! BACK TO YOUR QUARTERS!
'CAUSE SHE PROBABLY WON'T DO IT WITH YELLOWS! WAH HA HA HA. !
THE WOMAN IN THE PHOTO MUST EXIST, RIGHT...?
IT IS FANTASTIC, BUT...
IT'S HARD TO BUY THAT STORY, SECOND LIEUTENANT.
ZEPHYRUS!!

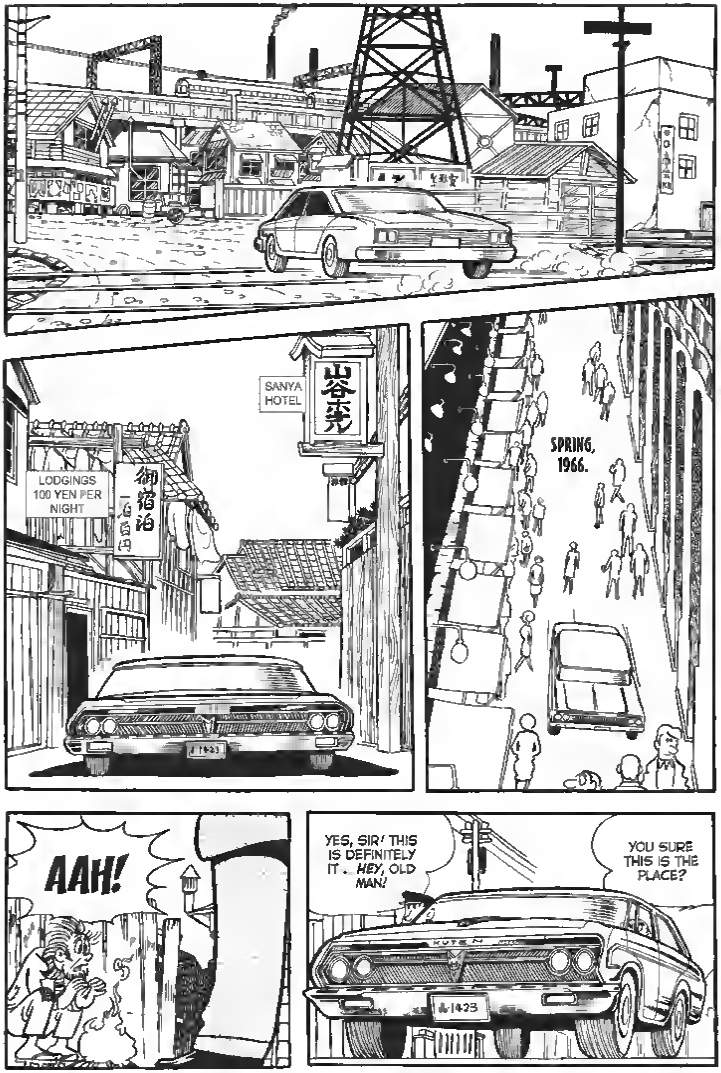
YIKES!
ZEPHYRUS!!
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO DO IT, SEKI. . BUT I'M TAKING THAT PHOTO!
IT'S POISONING YOU!
SIGH
YOUR CRIES AT NIGHT ARE SCARING THE ORDERLIES! WA HA HA HA HA!
YOU'RE BEHAVING STRANGELY, SECOND LIEUTENANT SEKI!
AS IMPERIAL SOLDIERS, WE SHOULD COMMIT HARAKIRI!
I...I'M SORRY!
COME ON! GIVE IT BACK!!
NO! YOU JUST WANT IT FOR YOURSELF, ADACHIGAHARA!
AIR RAAAID!!
THRRMMM THRRMMM
ズズズッ
ズズズッ
VRRRR


IN NOVEMBER, THE AMERICAN ARMY LAUNCHED A FIERCE COUNTER-ATTACK ON GUADALCANAL..

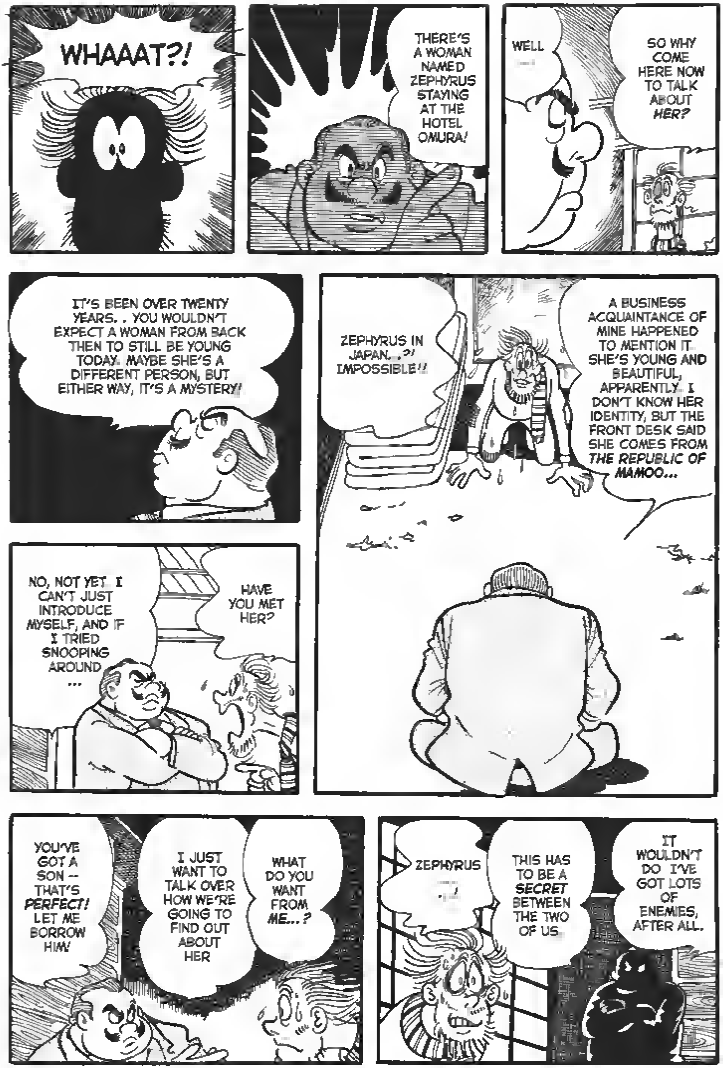

KAPHOOM
BOOM
BAKRAK KRAK
KABOOM
KRAK
KRAK
BOOM
SOMEHOW, AMIDST THE CHAOS, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOTOGRAPH WAS LOST.
BY FEBRUARY THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THE BASE WAS DESTROYED. UNDER THE TITLE OF "REDEPLOYMENT," LIEUTENANT ADACHIGAHARA AND THE OTHERS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RETREAT.
TWO DECADES PASSED.

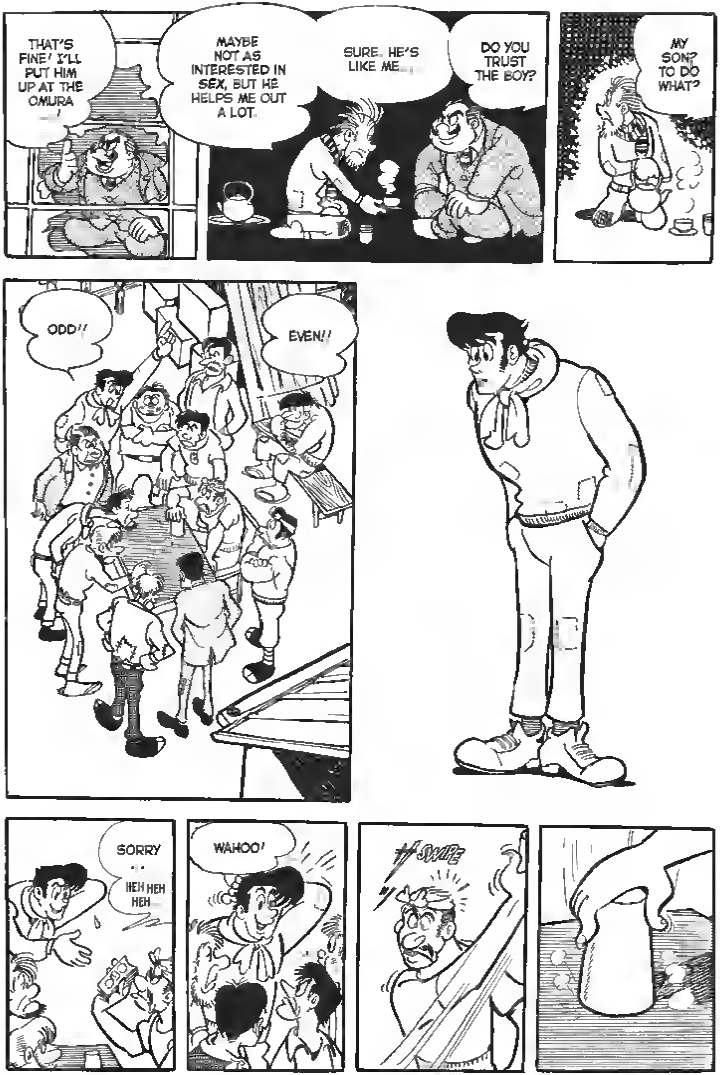
CHAPTER 3

MOTIF (PART I)


SANYA HOTEL
山谷ホテル
LODGINGS 100 YEN PER NIGHT
御宿泊
一泊百円
SPRING, 1966.
AAH!
YES, SIR! THIS IS DEFINITELY IT. HEY, OLD MAN!
YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE?

YOU'VE CHANGED..! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SEKI? WHY ARE YOU LIVING LIKE THIS?
ADACHIGAHARA! BOY, WHAT A SURPRISE!
ADACHIGAHARA..? IS THAT YOU?! IT'S BEEN SO LONG ..
C'MON IN. IT'S A MESS, BUT WHY TALK ON THE STREET?
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!
BUT YOU ALWAYS PUT UP WITH ME!
YOU AND I WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE START...
I'M ASHAMED, BUT I'M LIVING HAND-TO-MOUTH NOW.
ZEPHYRUS ... HOW COULD I FORGET HER...?
ZEPHYRUS ?!
DO YOU REMEMBER ZEPHYRUS?
I HAVE A DAUGHTER, BUT SOMETIMES I SEE THE FACE OF ZEPHYRUS IN PLACE OF HERS!
I WON'T. THE TRUTH IS, IT'S THE SAME FOR ME
YUP. AFTER I WAS SENT HOME, I GOT MARRIED, BUT SHE RAN OFF AND LEFT ME WITH A SON. NOW THE IMAGE OF ZEPHYRUS IS ALL I HAVE IN PLACE OF A WIFE. DON'T LAUGH, OKAY?
EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS ...?


WHAAAT?!
THERE'S A WOMAN NAMED ZEPHYRUS STAYING AT THE HOTEL ONURA!
WELL
SO WHY COME HERE NOW TO TALK ABOUT *HER?*
IT'S BEEN OVER TWENTY YEARS. . YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT A WOMAN FROM BACK THEN TO STILL BE YOUNG TODAY. MAYBE SHE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON, BUT EITHER WAY, IT'S A MYSTERY!
ZEPHYRUS IN JAPAN. . .?! IMPOSSIBLE!!
A BUSINESS ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE HAPPENED TO MENTION IT. SHE'S YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL, APPARENTLY. I DON'T KNOW HER IDENTITY, BUT THE FRONT DESK SAID SHE COMES FROM *THE REPUBLIC OF MAMOO...*
NO, NOT YET. I CAN'T JUST INTRODUCE MYSELF, AND IF I TRIED SNOOPING AROUND ...
HAVE YOU MET HER?
YOU'VE GOT A SON -- THAT'S *PERFECT!* LET ME BORROW HIM!
I JUST WANT TO TALK OVER HOW WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT ABOUT HER
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM *ME...?*
ZEPHYRUS
THIS HAS TO BE A *SECRET* BETWEEN THE TWO OF US.
IT WOULDN'T DO. I'VE GOT LOTS OF ENEMIES, AFTER ALL.


THAT'S FINE! I'LL PUT HIM UP AT THE OMURA
MAYBE NOT AS INTERESTED IN SEX, BUT HE HELPS ME OUT A LOT.
SURE.. HE'S LIKE ME...
DO YOU TRUST THE BOY?
MY SON? TO DO WHAT?
ODD!!
EVEN!!
SORRY . . .
HEH HEH HEH...
WAHOO!
SWIPE

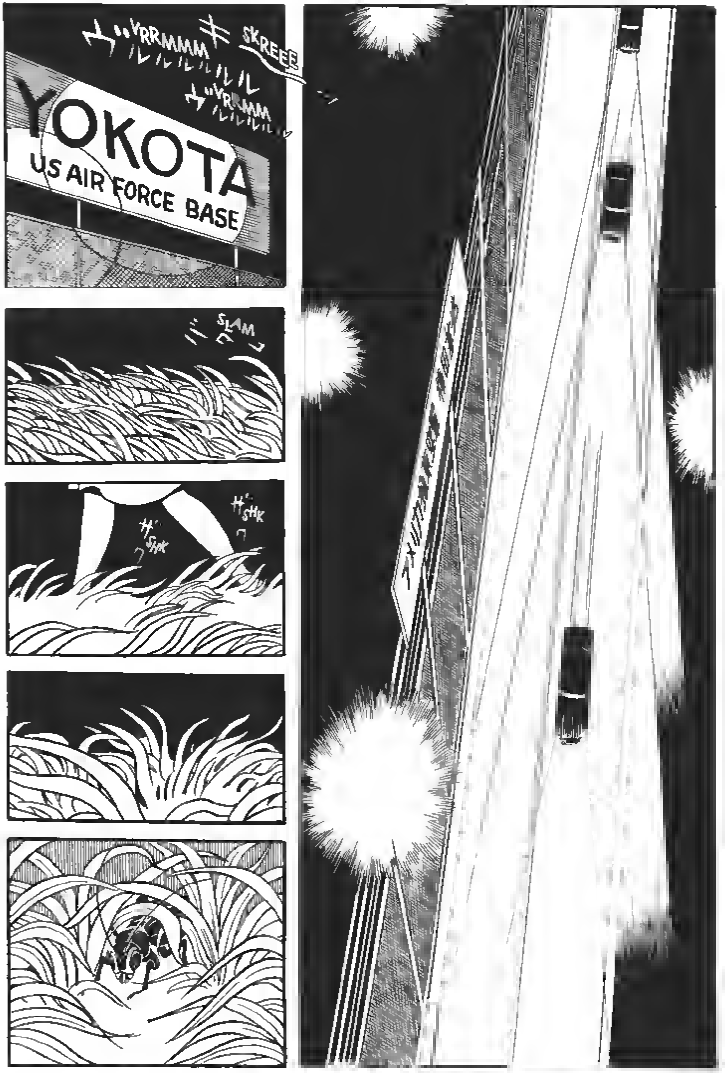
WE WANT A CUT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST A MINUTE!!
YOU THINK WE'D LET A STRANGER JUST WALK AWAY LIKE THAT?
WELL, BE SEEIN' YA!
I EARN WHAT I'VE GOT BY UNLOADING SHIPS ON THE WINDY SEA... NOT LIKE YOU PEOPLE, MOOCHING OFF OTHERS WHO WORK TO THE BONE!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! I SPENT MONEY TO WIN THIS!
I'D SAY YOU OWE US— MAYBE A THIRD, EH?
HOW MUCH?
WHY, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
OW, THAT HURT...
MIL T GROSS

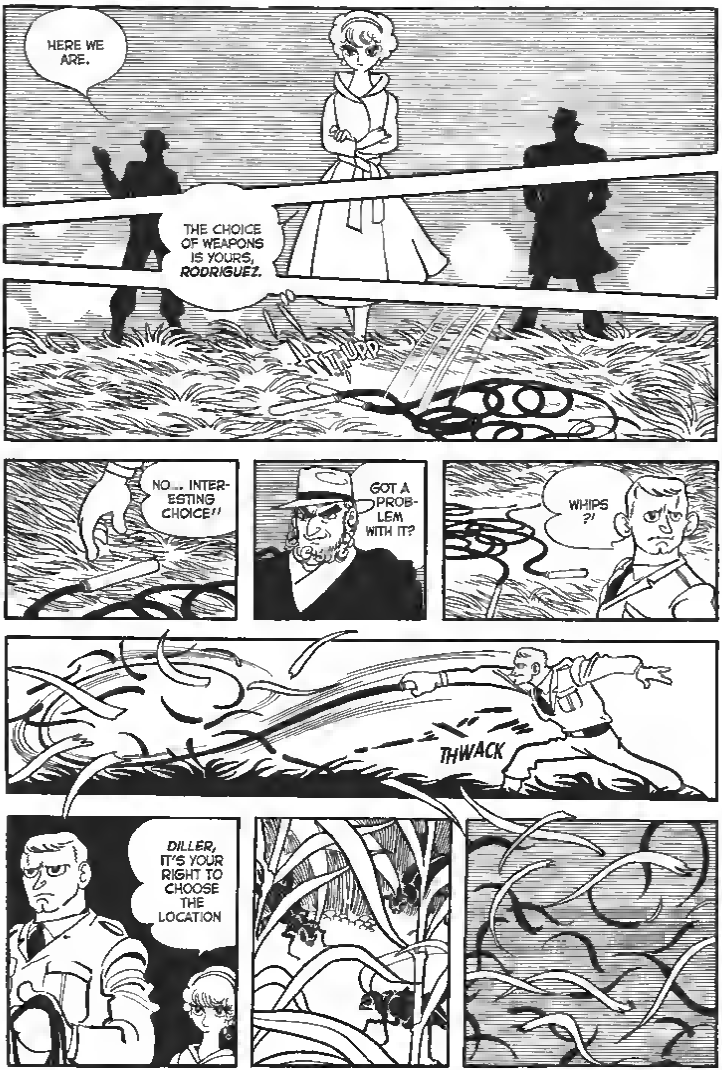
HAVE A NICE SWIM!
SPLASH
PLUNK
SHUKA
SHUKA
SHUKA
YOU MEAN LIKE, FOLK DANCING AROUND BONFIRES DOWN AT THE WHARF?
SAY, HOW ABOUT TAKING ME DANCING SOMETIME?
WOW! YOU CAN REALLY HOLD YOUR LIQUOR!
GULP
WOULDN'T MEETING A BEAUTY BEYOND COMPARE BE EVEN BETTER...?
MY DREAM IS TO DRINK ALL THE LIQUOR ON EARTH!
SURE, DREAMS ARE GOOD!
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE ONE BIG DREAM IN LIFE!
MATSU, YOU'RE SUCH A YOKEL!

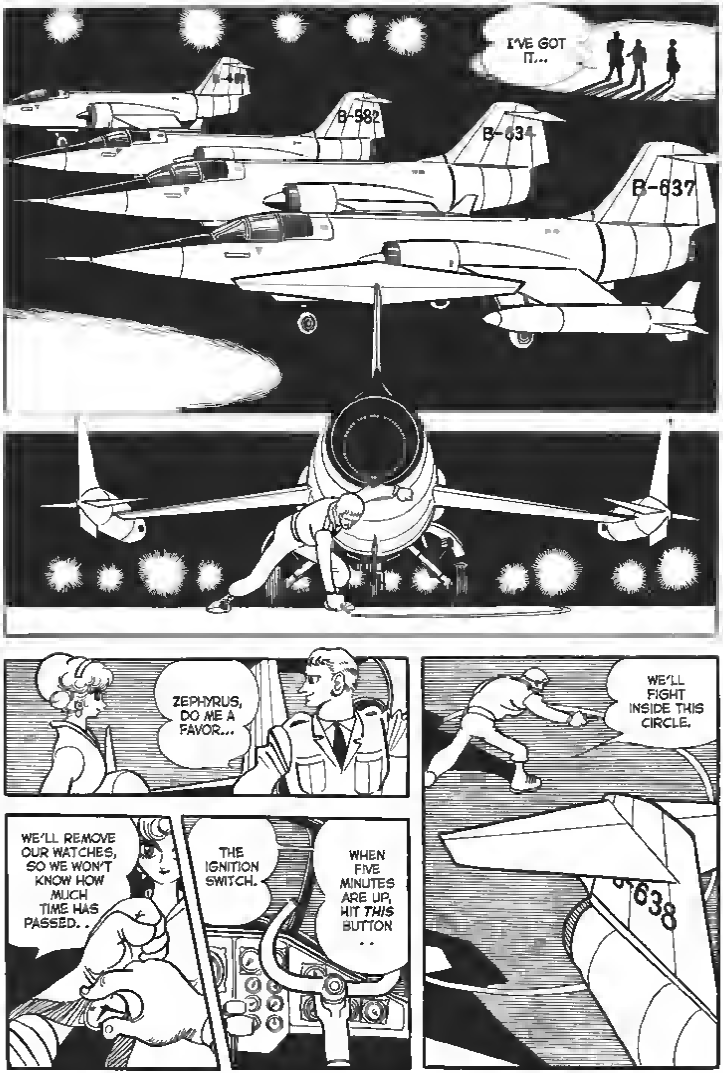
I WANT YOU TO STAY THERE AND GET CLOSE TO THE ZEPHYRUS WOMAN
YOUR HOTEL ROOM IS NEXT TO HERS...
THIS ONE'S NAME IS ZEPHYRUS
I GOT NO INTEREST IN WOMEN!
OH! YOU MADE A DEAL WITH MY FATHER?
I'M AN OLD FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S HE'S AGREED TO THIS, TOO.
FIND OUT THE WOMAN'S HISTORY IF YOU CAN!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE ONE THING...
AS YOUR REWARD, I'LL PAY YOU 300,000 YEN!
THE HOTEL OMURA

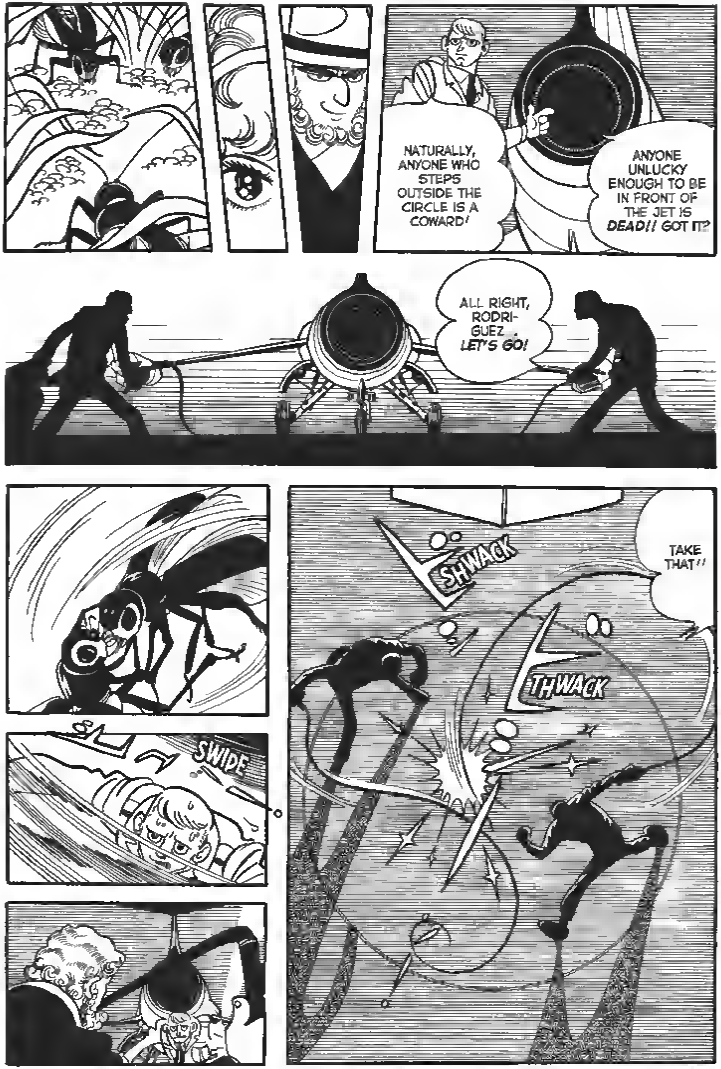
CHAPTER 4

MOTIF (PART II)

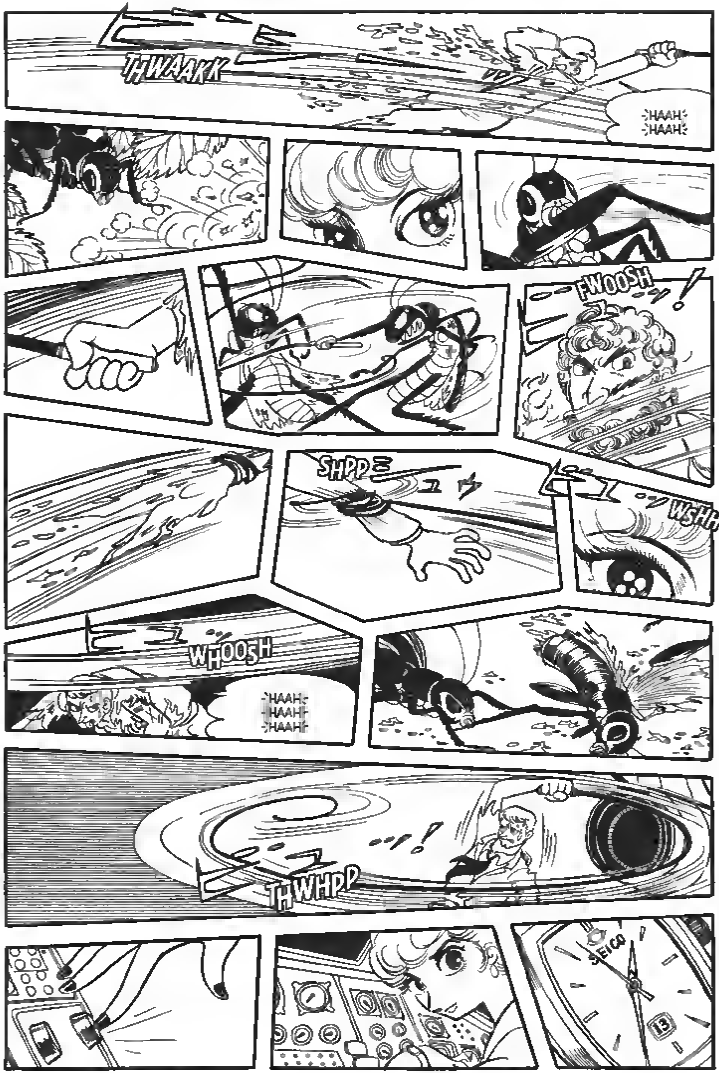

VRRMMM
SKREEE
YOKOTA
US AIR FORCE BASE
SLAM
HISHK
HISHK


HERE WE ARE.
THE CHOICE OF WEAPONS IS YOURS, RODRIGUEZ.
NO... INTERESTING CHOICE!!
GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?
WHIPS?!
THWACK
DILLER, IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE LOCATION


I'VE GOT IT...
B-582
B-634
B-637
ZEPHYRUS, DO ME A FAVOR...
WE'LL REMOVE OUR WATCHES, SO WE WON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED..
THE IGNITION SWITCH.
WHEN FIVE MINUTES ARE UP, HIT *THIS* BUTTON..
WE'LL FIGHT INSIDE THIS CIRCLE.
638


NATURALLY, ANYONE WHO STEPS OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE IS A COWARD!
ANYONE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO BE IN FRONT OF THE JET IS DEAD!! GOT IT?
ALL RIGHT, RODRIGUEZ... LET'S GO!
SWIPE
SHWACK
THWACK
TAKE THAT!!

THWACK
WHAKKK
SHRRAKK
THWACK
SHWPP
THWACK

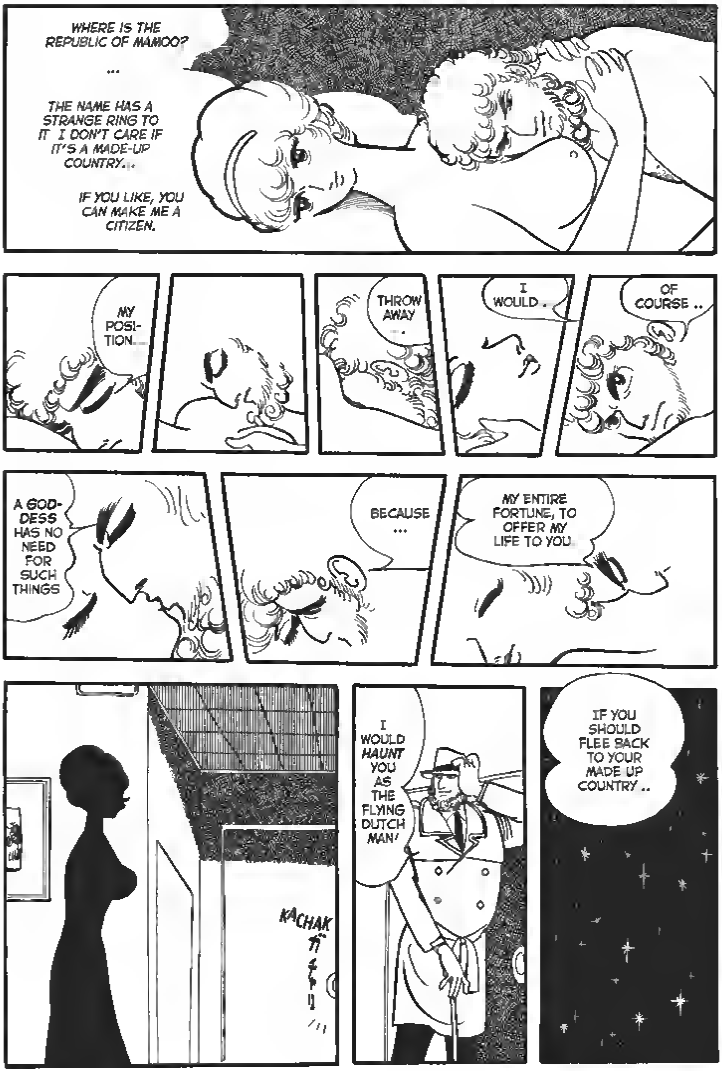

THWAAKK
:HAAH:
:HAAH:
FWOOSH
SHPP
WSHH
WHOOSH
:HAAH:
:HAAH:
:HAAH:
THWHPP
SEIKO

B-6
GAWOOSH
KRRKRR
KRRKRR
TOO BAD FOR YOU, DILLER...!

ZEPHYRUS... YOU'D BETTER KEEP BACK...
THAT'S *TWO* YOU'VE BESTED, COUNT RODRIGUEZ!
I WON!!
EVEN SO, YOU'RE A *MYSTERY* -- BRINGING ME HERE FROM VALENCIA AS YOUR COMPANION!
TRULY, YOU'RE A *FRIGHTENING* WOMAN, ZEPHYRUS! I'VE KILLED TWO MEN DUELING FOR YOU, AND YOU'VE YET TO LIFT AN EYEBROW!!
WHAT WILL YOU FIGHT WITH *NEXT?*
THE FIRST MAN WITH PISTOLS, THE SECOND WITH WHIPS...
VAROOM!!!
HOTEL OMURA, ROOM 321 -- I'LL BE WAITING!
WE SHOULD LEAVE QUICKLY! WHEN THEY REALIZE CAPTAIN DILLER IS DEAD, THE BASE WILL BE IN AN *UPROAR!*
I'LL *NEVER* LET YOU GO, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME *MY LIFE!* EVEN IF I MAKE AN *ENEMY* OF EVERY MAN IN THE WORLD -- I AM YOUR *SERVANT!*

LATER, AT THE HOTEL OMURA...

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY? YOU'RE DISSATISFIED ABOUT SOMETHING.
IS IT LIFE? LOVE? WHY JAPAN?
THAT IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN, RODRIGUEZ!
BUT IT TROUBLES ME. WHY WON'T YOU ASK FOR MY HELP?


WHERE IS THE REPUBLIC OF MAMOO?
...
THE NAME HAS A STRANGE RING TO IT I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A MADE-UP COUNTRY..
IF YOU LIKE, YOU CAN MAKE ME A CITIZEN.
MY POSI-TION...
THROW AWAY .
I WOULD .
OF COURSE ..
A GOD-DESS HAS NO NEED FOR SUCH THINGS
BECAUSE ...
MY ENTIRE FORTUNE, TO OFFER MY LIFE TO YOU.
KACHAK
I WOULD HAUNT YOU AS THE FLYING DUTCH MAN!
IF YOU SHOULD FLEE BACK TO YOUR MADE UP COUNTRY ..

BATAM
SSS
HISSSH!
RE-RE-RECEPTION?! I ONLY GO TO RECEPTION AFTER *WEDDINGS!*
HERE'S THE HOTEL OMURA -- NOW DO IT RIGHT, AND DON'T BE SO *WEAK-KNEED!* RECEPTION IS INSIDE ON THE LEFT.

YOWOWOW!!
SHWIP
CLICK
カチリ
GAAH!
AIEE!
URGH!!

ROOM 320.
YES HERE IT IS...
GOHONMATSU SEKI!!
COUGH!
RESERVATION?
FEH! WHAT A DUMP! I FEEL LIKE I'M CHOKING!
THE WARD OFFICE IS DEPRESSING, BUT IT'D BE BETTER THAN THIS!
I'LL SET YOUR LUGGAGE HERE
I'M LOCKED OUT!
OH, NO!
BAAM
CAN'T STAND THE TERRIBLE, STIFLING AIR...!

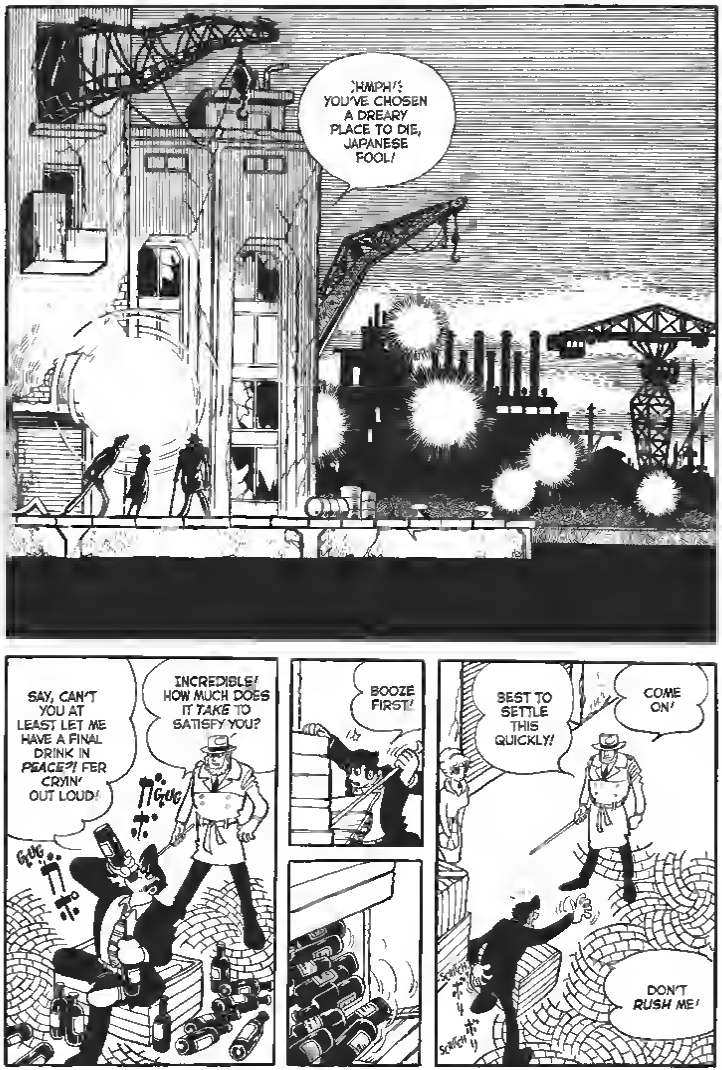
DAMN IT! THAT'S SOME LOCK!
BAM!
KOAK
HEY! OPEN UP! OPEN UP! COME ON!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
321
AHH!
SHHHK
YIII!
321
KCHIK
YOW!
321

ZEPHYRUS
321
320
I-I'M LOCKED OUT OF MY ROOM. IT'S RIGGED SOMETHING FIERCE!
HEH HEH HEH
AH... UH UH-OH!
WEAR THIS
HERE...
WHY DON'T YOU COME IN?
I'LL CALL THE MAID AND HAVE IT OPENED.
IT'S KINDA HOT IN THIS ROOM!
PHEW-
THEY'LL BE RIGHT UP.
'ALLO? ROOM SER-VICE?

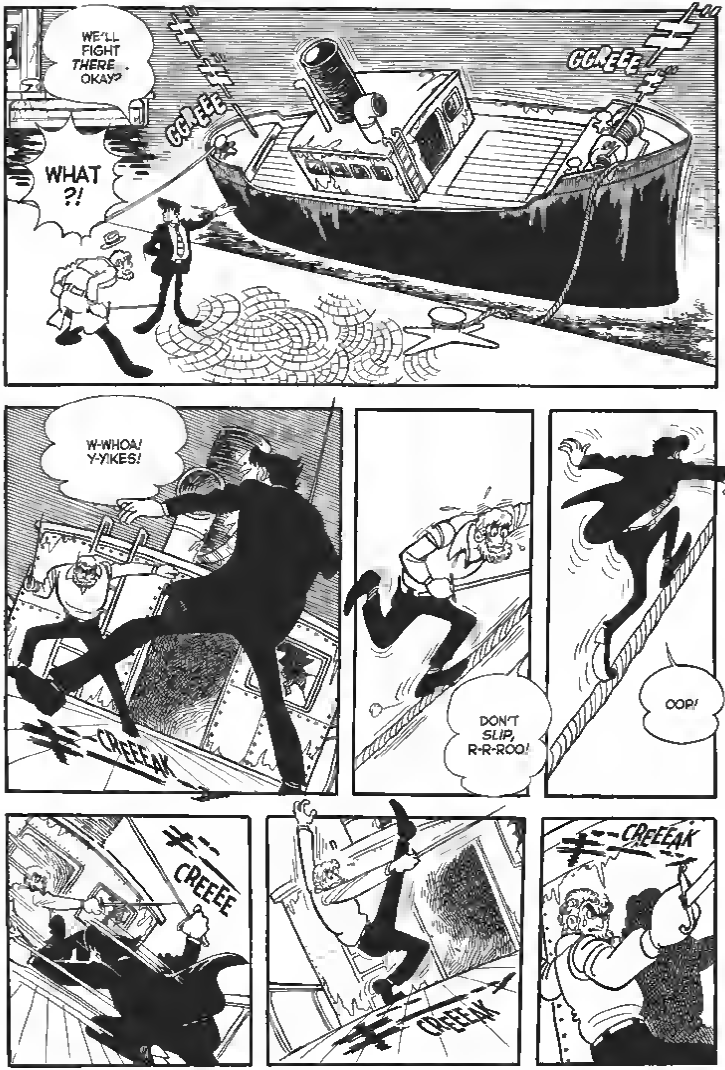
G-G-GO-HONMATSU SEKI MM.
MY NAME IS ZEPHYRUS.
HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
GULP
EVERYBODY LAUGHS AT IT.. BUT NOT YOU, HUH? MM.
THAT'S AN UNUSUAL NAME, ISN'T IT?
GOHONMATSU SEKI...
YEAH, A DESIGNER!!
SEE, I... UH... THAT IS. I'M A.. UHN... DESIGNER!
GAAH..! YEAH, FOR WORK...!
PARDON ME FOR ASKING, BUT WILL YOU BE STAYING HERE LONG?
YEAH, BASS ARE GOOD. I JUST WISH THEY WEREN'T SO SALTY! MM.
I LOVE THE DESIGNS OF SAUL BASS!
N-NAW, I NEVER TAKE ESCALATORS! MM.
YOU MEAN YOU WORK AS AN ILLUSTRATOR?
GLUBB
UNLIKE COOKING, SAY, DRINKING'S EASY...
YEAH! Y'SEE, THE THING IS...
YOU REALLY LIKE TO DRINK, DON'T YOU?
PCUP
RICH OR POOR, ANYONE CAN DO IT, SEE?

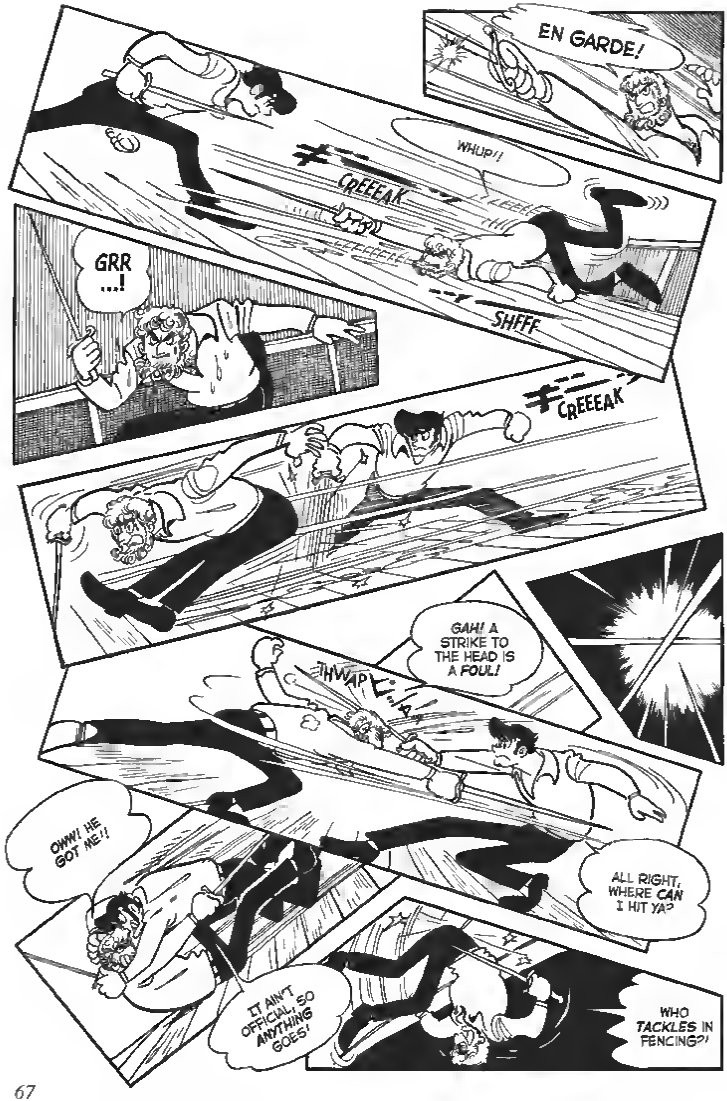
THIS IS GOOD BOOZE... RICH ON THE TONGUE! DOWN THE HATCH!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
SLAM
WAH!
ZEPHYRUS -- WHO IS THIS MAN?!
321
RODRI-GUEZ, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK --
AREN'T YOU QUICK, SNATCHING UP THE NEXT ONE?
I LEFT SOMETHING, SO I CAME BACK ...
AWW... THIS WAS ALL SOME KINDA SET UP, EH?

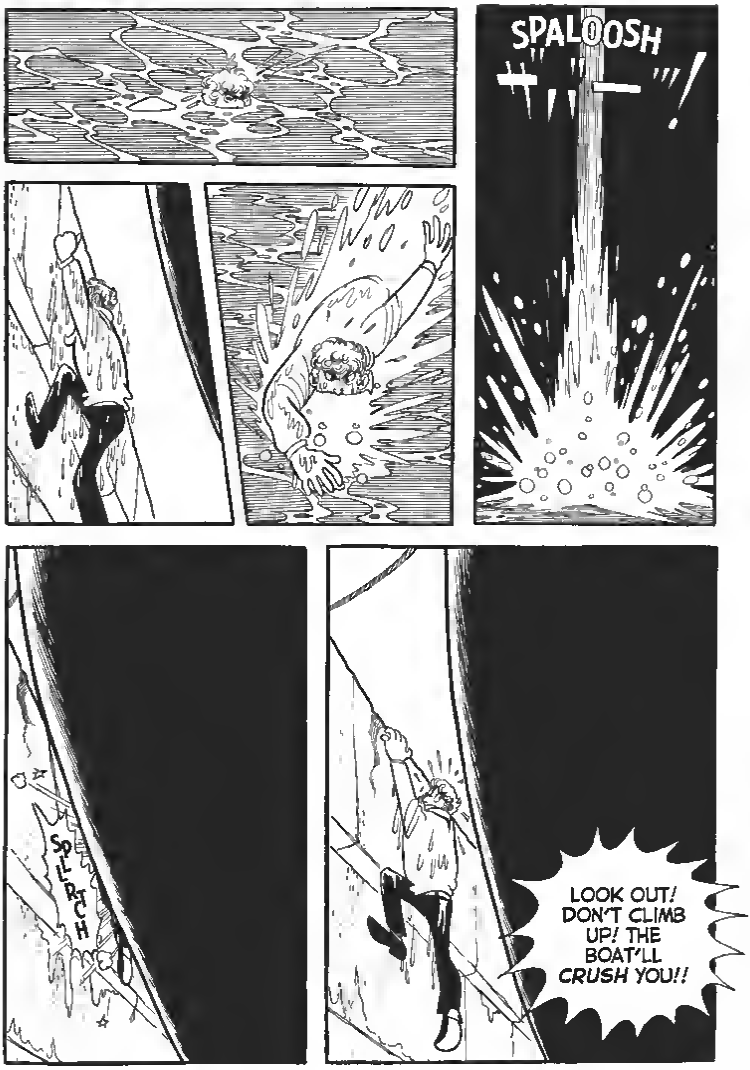
HMPH! WHAT ABOUT YOUR PANTS?!
I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'!! SHE JUST INVITED ME IN FOR DRINKS!
I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM!
WHAT THE HELL...?!
ANY MAN WHO COMES NEAR ZEPHYRUS MUST FIGHT AGAINST ME... UNTIL ONE OF US IS DEAD!
YOU KNOW WHAT MUST HAPPEN, YES?
I AM COUNT RODRIGUEZ...
S-SAY, MISS ZEPHYRUS, IS THIS GUY NUTS?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED... PLEASE, DO AS HE SAYS!
ACCORDING TO THE RULES, I SELECT THE WEAPONS AND YOU SELECT THE LOCATION.
I DON'T LIKE COWARDS.
SLAM!!
ALL RIGHT -- A DUELING FEE!! TEN DOZEN WHISKEYS!!
SAVE YOUR COMPLAINTS FOR ME!!
I SHOULD'A NEVER COME IN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE...
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO CONCERNED, EITHER!
YOU'RE ALMOST SMILING, AREN'T YA?
DO AS HE SAYS?! THIS IS CRAZY TALK!


HMPH! YOU'VE CHOSEN A DREARY PLACE TO DIE, JAPANESE FOOL!
SAY, CAN'T YOU AT LEAST LET ME HAVE A FINAL DRINK IN PEACE?! FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
INCREDIBLE! HOW MUCH DOES IT TAKE TO SATISFY YOU?
GULP
GULP
BOOZE FIRST!
BEST TO SETTLE THIS QUICKLY!
COME ON!
DON'T RUSH ME!
SCRAPE
SCRAPE

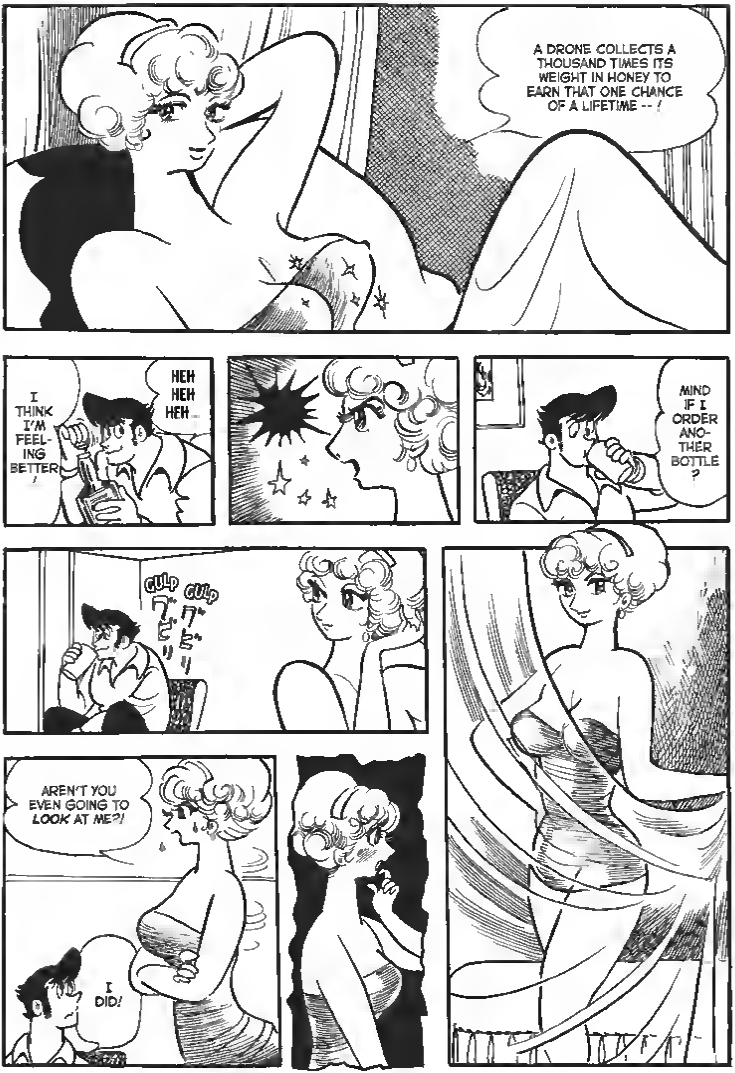
HANG ON! I DIDN'T SAY WE'D FIGHT HERE!
NOW TAKE YOUR WEAPON!
AFTER I PUT HOLES IN YOU, ALL THAT ALCOHOL IS SURE TO SPILL OUT!
FINE, THEN! DRINK ALL YOU LIKE!
AND A-HEAVE AND A-HO!
HEAVE-HO!
ONE-AND TWO AND. .
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HURRGH!
BUT YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU DON'T THINK SO!
THINK YOU CAN MOVE A BOAT BY PULLING IT?!
DRUN-KEN FOOL!
HEAVE-AND-HO!
CREAK
CREAK
UNTIL IT SWAYS!
GREEEE
GREEEE
GREEEE
IF I FIND THE RIGHT RHYTHM WHILE PULLING, I CAN BUILD MOMENTUM.
CREAK
CREAK


WE'LL FIGHT THERE, OKAY?
WHAT ?!
CCREEE
CCREEE
W-WHOA! Y-YIKES!
CREEEAK
DON'T SLIP, R-R-ROO!
OOP!
CREEEE
CREEAK
CREEEAK

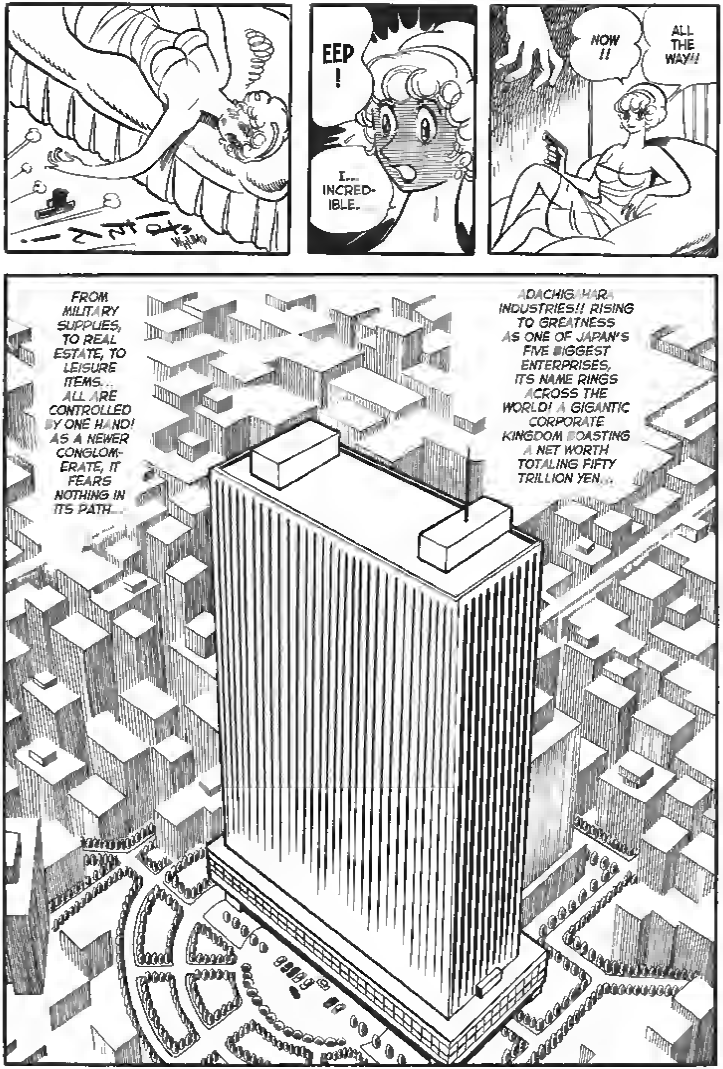

EN GARDE!
WHUP!!
CREEEAK
SHFFF
GRR ...!
CREEEAK
GAH! A STRIKE TO THE HEAD IS A FOUL!
THWAP
OWW! HE GOT ME!!
ALL RIGHT, WHERE CAN I HIT YA?
IT AIN'T OFFICIAL, SO ANYTHING GOES!
WHO TACKLES IN FENCING?!

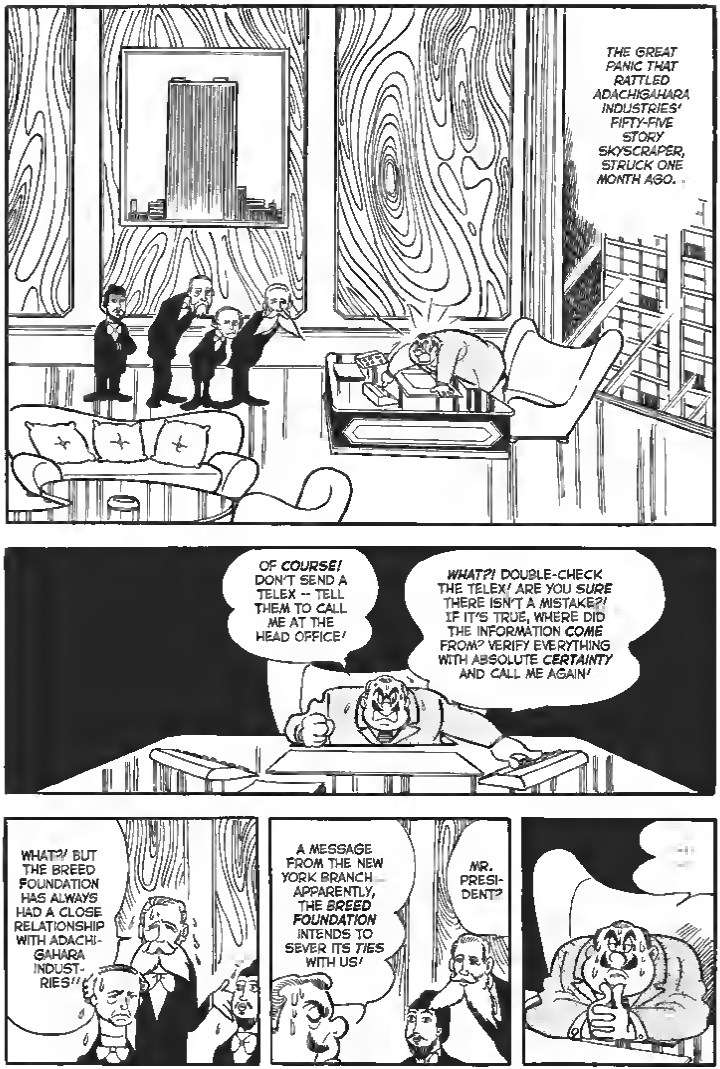

SPALOOSH
SPLRTCH
LOOK OUT! DON'T CLIMB UP! THE BOAT'LL *CRUSH* YOU!!

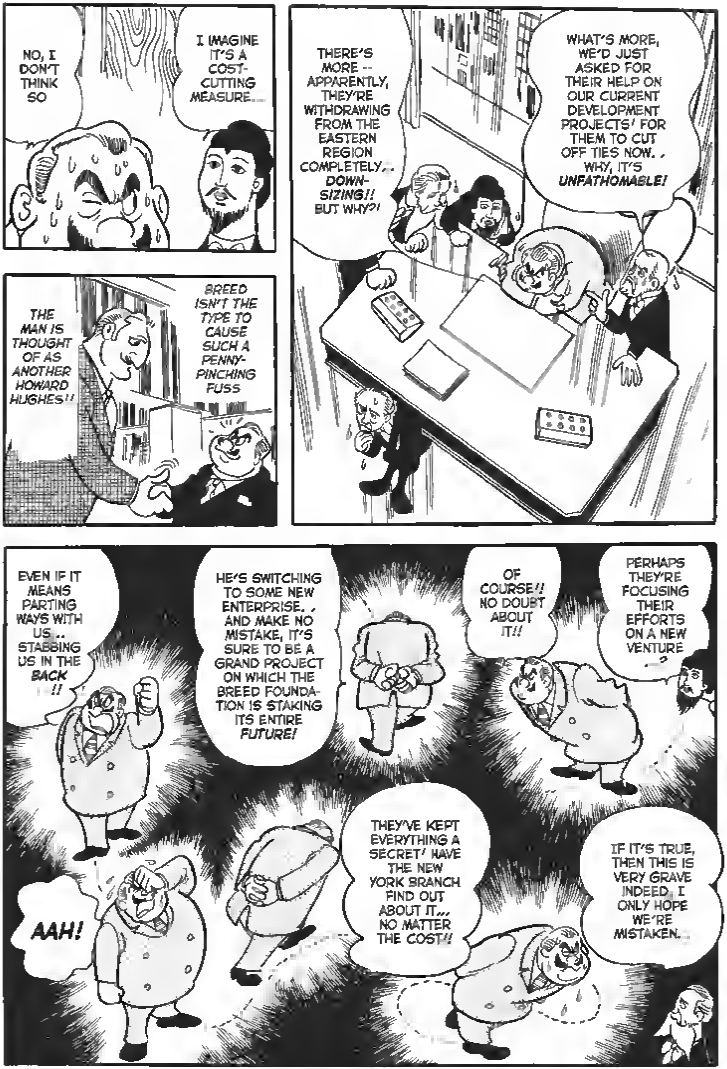
YOU HAVE WON GOHONMATSU!
RODRIGUEZ FOUGHT MAGNIFICENTLY, BUT... NOT WELL ENOUGH!
GODDAMN IT! IT'S BAD LUCK TO SEE A MAN DIE LIKE THAT... :GLUG: :GLUG:
YOU HAVE COURAGE.. THE "JAPANESE SPIRIT" AS YOU SAY. I'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW ME THAT JAPANESE SPIRIT!
EEEEK!!
GREEAK
LIKE I CAN SWALLOW THE WHOLE EARTH!
THE MORE I DRINK, THE MORE I WANT..
I'M JUST GETTING STARTED..
THAT'S NOT TRUE!


A DRONE COLLECTS A THOUSAND TIMES ITS WEIGHT IN HONEY TO EARN THAT ONE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME --!
I THINK I'M FEELING BETTER!
HEH HEH HEH...
MIND IF I ORDER ANOTHER BOTTLE?
GULP ゴビリ
GULP ゴビリ
AREN'T YOU EVEN GOING TO LOOK AT ME?!
I DID!

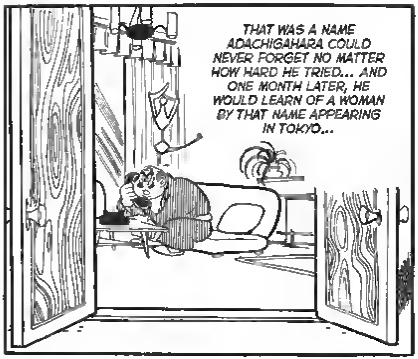
YOU MUST BE MISSING BODY PARTS!
ARE YOU HOMO-SEX-UAL?
YOU DRUN-KARD !!
OH, YOU HOR-RIBLE MAN!!
AND NOTHING COMES TO MIND?
I THINK MAYBE YOU'RE GONNA CATCH A COLD.
A DRUNKARD IS SOMEONE WHO HAS A DOZEN OR SO, AND STUMBLES AROUND FALLING ON HIS ASS!
DID YOU CALL ME A DRUNKARD ?!
DRUNK-ARD?
UP-UH-
WAIT!
GET OUT!! BRAZEN FOOL!
I WANT A GOOD LAUGH AT WHAT I'M SURE IS THE SIZE OF MY LITTLE FINGER!
TAKE OFF YOUR PANTS!!
NOW I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON YOU, TOO!
YOU'VE EMBAR-RASSED ME ENOUGH...

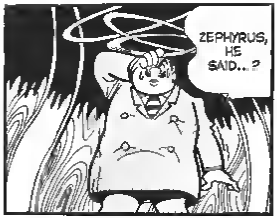

EEP !
I... INCRED-IBLE..
NOW !!
ALL THE WAY!!
FROM MILITARY SUPPLIES, TO REAL ESTATE, TO LEISURE ITEMS... ALL ARE CONTROLLED BY ONE HAND! AS A NEWER CONGLOM-ERATE, IT FEARS NOTHING IN ITS PATH...
ADACHIGAHARA INDUSTRIES!! RISING TO GREATNESS AS ONE OF JAPAN'S FIVE BIGGEST ENTERPRISES, ITS NAME RINGS ACROSS THE WORLD! A GIGANTIC CORPORATE KINGDOM BOASTING A NET WORTH TOTALING FIFTY TRILLION YEN...

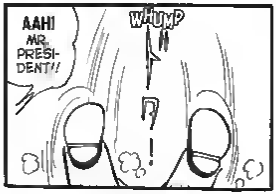

THE GREAT PANIC THAT RATTLED ADACHIGAHARA INDUSTRIES' FIFTY-FIVE STORY SKYSCRAPER, STRUCK ONE MONTH AGO.
OF COURSE! DON'T SEND A TELEX -- TELL THEM TO CALL ME AT THE HEAD OFFICE!
WHAT?! DOUBLE-CHECK THE TELEX! ARE YOU SURE THERE ISN'T A MISTAKE?! IF IT'S TRUE, WHERE DID THE INFORMATION COME FROM? VERIFY EVERYTHING WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY AND CALL ME AGAIN!
WHAT?! BUT THE BREED FOUNDATION HAS ALWAYS HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ADACHI-GAHARA INDUST-RIES!!
A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW YORK BRANCH... APPARENTLY, THE BREED FOUNDATION INTENDS TO SEVER ITS TIES WITH US!
MR. PRESI-DENT?

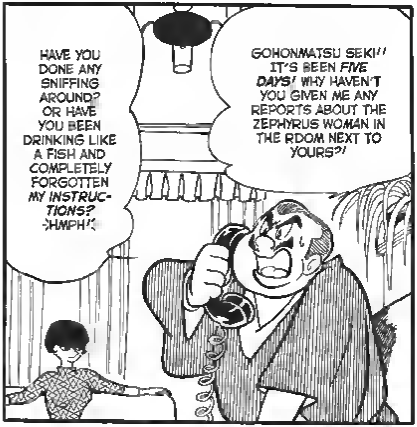

NO, I DON'T THINK SO
I IMAGINE IT'S A COST-CUTTING MEASURE...
THERE'S MORE -- APPARENTLY, THEY'RE WITHDRAWING FROM THE EASTERN REGION COMPLETELY... DOWN-SIZING!! BUT WHY?!
WHAT'S MORE, WE'D JUST ASKED FOR THEIR HELP ON OUR CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS! FOR THEM TO CUT OFF TIES NOW.. WHY, IT'S UNFATHOMABLE!
THE MAN IS THOUGHT OF AS ANOTHER HOWARD HUGHES!!
BREED ISN'T THE TYPE TO CAUSE SUCH A PENNY-PINCHING FUSS
EVEN IF IT MEANS PARTING WAYS WITH US.. STABBING US IN THE BACK !!
HE'S SWITCHING TO SOME NEW ENTERPRISE.. AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, IT'S SURE TO BE A GRAND PROJECT ON WHICH THE BREED FOUNDATION IS STAKING ITS ENTIRE FUTURE!
OF COURSE!! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!
PERHAPS THEY'RE FOCUSING THEIR EFFORTS ON A NEW VENTURE..?
AAH!
THEY'VE KEPT EVERYTHING A SECRET! HAVE THE NEW YORK BRANCH FIND OUT ABOUT IT... NO MATTER THE COST!!
IF IT'S TRUE, THEN THIS IS VERY GRAVE INDEED. I ONLY HOPE WE'RE MISTAKEN...

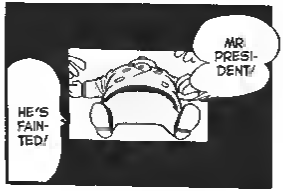
LONG DISTANCE FROM NEW YORK!
IF THIS NEWS GETS OUT, ADACHIGAHARA'S STOCK WILL PLUMMET. IT'LL BE PANIC! WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LINE UP AND COMMIT SEPPUKU!!
HELLO, BRANCH CHIEF? ANY INFORMATION?
THE WORD WAS Z-ZEPHYRUS
WHAT WAS IT?
SAID ONLY ONE WORD
MR. BREED ...
WELL, WE MADE AN INQUIRY, BUT BREED JUST BOTTLED UP. IT WAS LIKE TRYING TO GRAB SMOKE!
ZEPHYRUS!

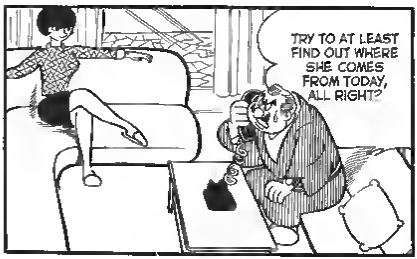

THAT WAS A NAME ADACHIGAHARA COULD NEVER FORGET NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIED... AND ONE MONTH LATER, HE WOULD LEARN OF A WOMAN BY THAT NAME APPEARING IN TOKYO...





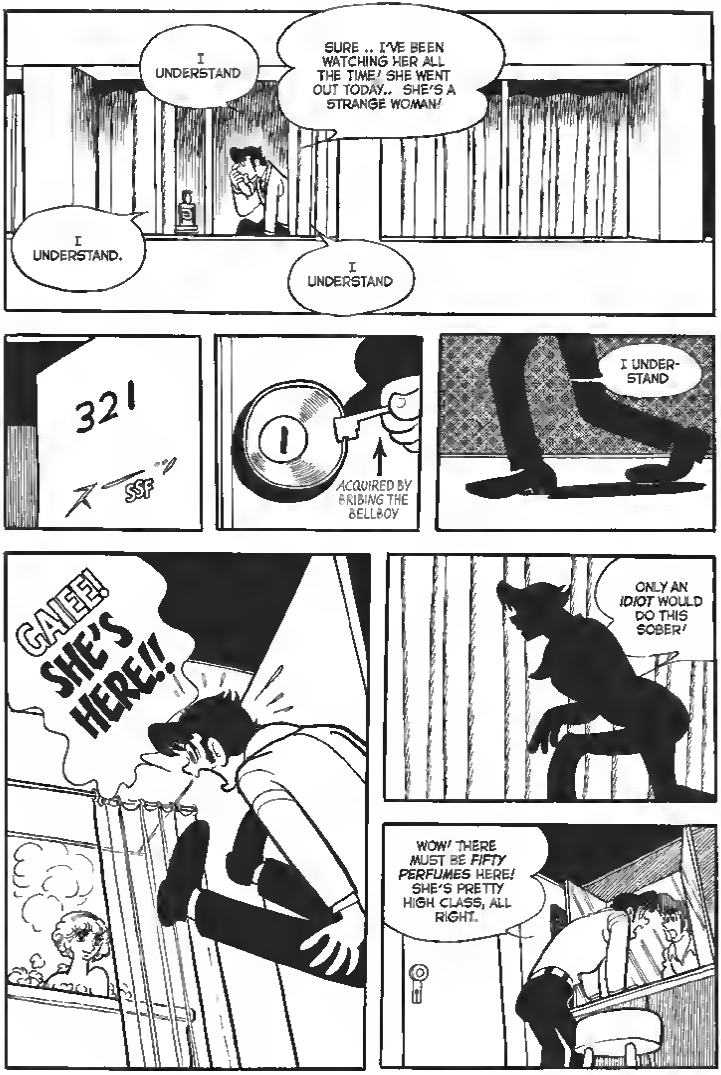

HAVE YOU DONE ANY SNIFFING AROUND? OR HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING LIKE A FISH AND COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN *MY INSTRUC-TIONS?* >HMPH!<
GOHONMATSU SEKI!! IT'S BEEN *FIVE DAYS!* WHY HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN ME ANY REPORTS ABOUT THE ZEPHYRUS WOMAN IN THE ROOM NEXT TO YOURS?!



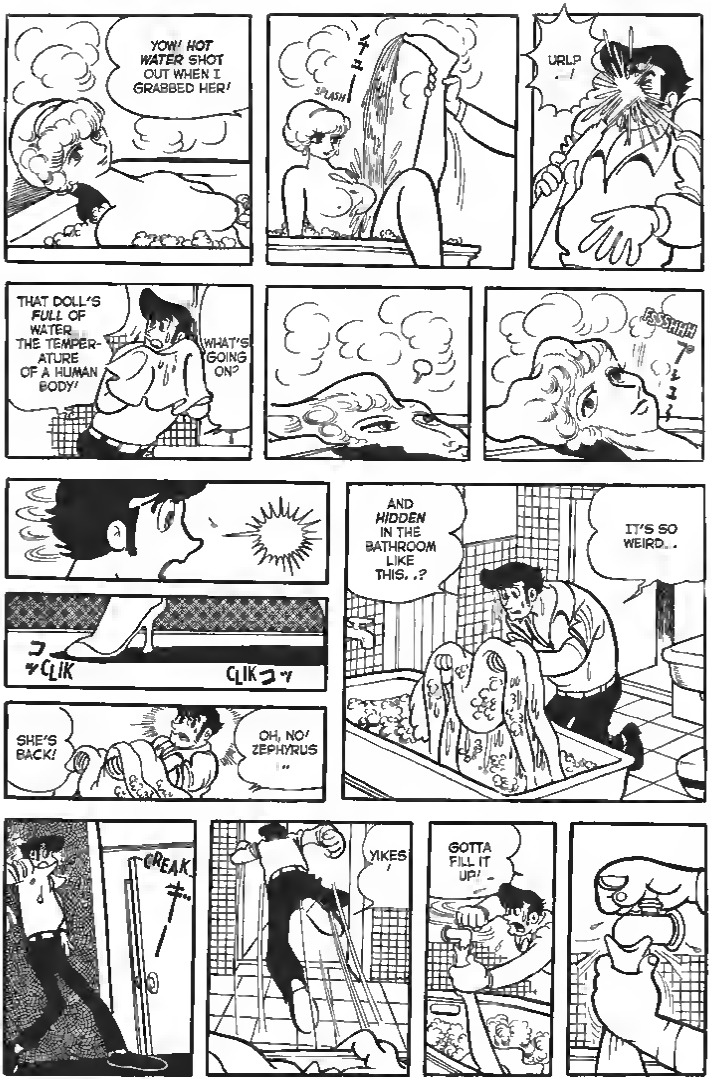


ZEPHYRUS

ZEPHYRUS

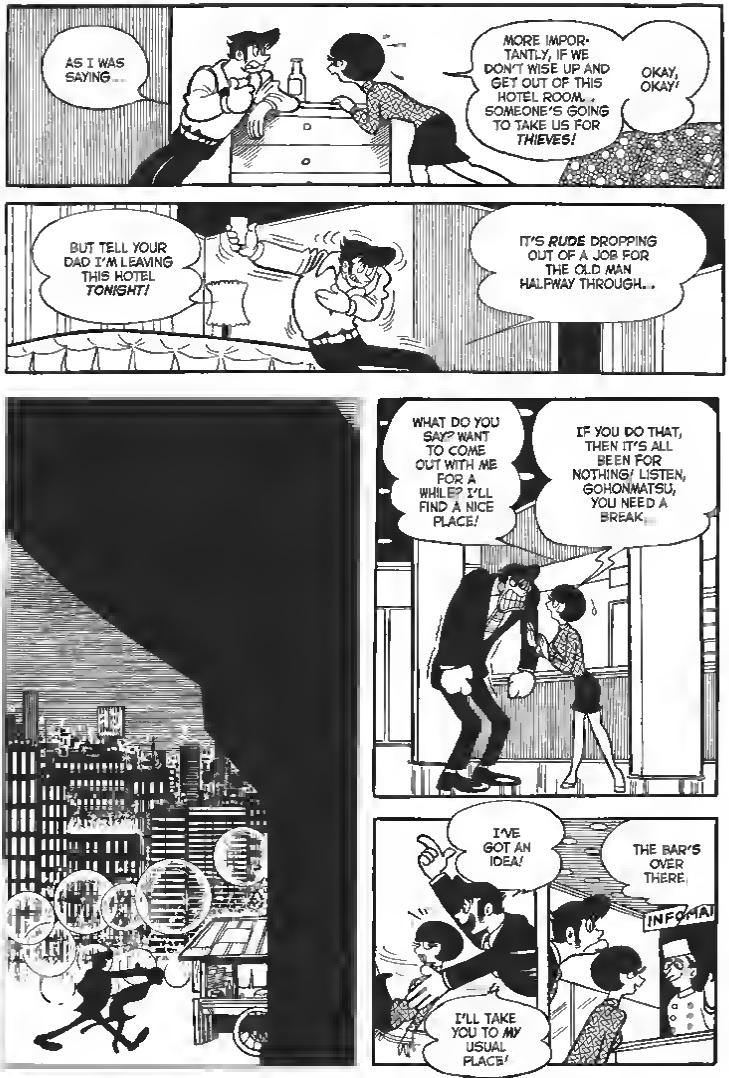

I UNDERSTAND
SURE .. I'VE BEEN WATCHING HER ALL THE TIME! SHE WENT OUT TODAY.. SHE'S A STRANGE WOMAN!
I UNDERSTAND.
I UNDERSTAND
321
SSF
ACQUIRED BY BRIBING THE BELLBOY
I UNDER-STAND
CAEE! SHE'S HERE!!
ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD DO THIS SOBER!
WOW! THERE MUST BE FIFTY PERFUMES HERE! SHE'S PRETTY HIGH CLASS, ALL RIGHT..

?
SHLLYCE
?
I'M REALLY SORRY!
SHE'S HERE...?!
SORRY
WHAT THE...? SHE'S NOT MOVING IS SHE IN A TRANCE...?
AAH!! IT'S SOME KINDA SUPER REALISTIC SEX DOLL!


YOW! HOT WATER SHOT OUT WHEN I GRABBED HER!
SPLASH
URL?
THAT DOLL'S FULL OF WATER. THE TEMPERATURE OF A HUMAN BODY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HSSSHH
CLIK
CLIK
SHE'S BACK!
OH, NO! ZEPHYRUS
AND HIDDEN IN THE BATHROOM LIKE THIS..?
IT'S SO WEIRD...
CREAK
YIKES
GOTTA FILL IT UP!

IT'S NOT HER!
GYACK!!
WHO'RE YOU?
GOHON-MATSU SEKI!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE... DO YOU WORK FOR ZEPHYRUS?!
ADACHIGA-HARA... SO YOU'RE THAT COMPANY PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER...?
NANA ADACHIGA-HARA! PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
I'M AN AMATEUR PHOTOG-RAPHER...
DOESN'T THAT OLD MAN TRUST ME AT ALL?
HUH?! SO YOU'RE TAILING ME?
MY FATHER TOLD ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU!

YUP! I'VE GOT IT ALL!
SINCE I CHECKED INTO THE HOTEL?!
EVERY-THING ?! YOU MEAN...
HE ORDERED ME TO TAKE PICTURES OF EVERYTHING YOU DO AND REPORT BACK TO HIM.
DAD DOESN'T TRUST ANYONE!
THAT'S A CAPI-TALIST FOR YOU!
"HMPH!" ALL I GOTTA DO TO EARN THAT MUCH IS UNLOAD A LITTLE CARGO...!
300,000 YEN?
DON'T YOU WANT YOUR 300,000 YEN?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH O' THIS! I QUIT!
WHAAAT?!
THAT'S NUTHIN'!
THAT'S FUNNY! IF YOU MADE 3,000 YEN A DAY, IT'D TAKE YOU A HUNDRED DAYS!
HMPH! I HEARD YOU WERE PENNILESS!
PLENTY ENOUGH TO GET SOME GRUB, DRINK SOME BOOZE, AND FIND A PLACE FOR THE NIGHT!"
THREE SUBWAY TICKETS, TWO LOTTERY TICKETS, FOUR PAWN TICKETS, ONE 1000 YEN BILL, TWO 500-YEN COINS, THREE TEN-YEN COINS, EIGHTEEN ONE YEN COINS!"
WANNA SEE MY WALLET?
PENNILESS?! WHO'RE YOU KIDDING?


AS I WAS SAYING...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF WE DON'T WISE UP AND GET OUT OF THIS HOTEL ROOM... SOMEONE'S GOING TO TAKE US FOR *THIEVES!*
OKAY, OKAY!
BUT TELL YOUR DAD I'M LEAVING THIS HOTEL *TONIGHT!*
IT'S *RUDE* DROPPING OUT OF A JOB FOR THE OLD MAN HALFWAY THROUGH...
WHAT DO YOU SAY? WANT TO COME OUT WITH ME FOR A WHILE? I'LL FIND A NICE PLACE!
IF YOU DO THAT, THEN IT'S ALL BEEN FOR NOTHING! LISTEN, GOHONMATSU, YOU NEED A BREAK...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
THE BAR'S OVER THERE!
INFOMA!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO *MY* USUAL PLACE!

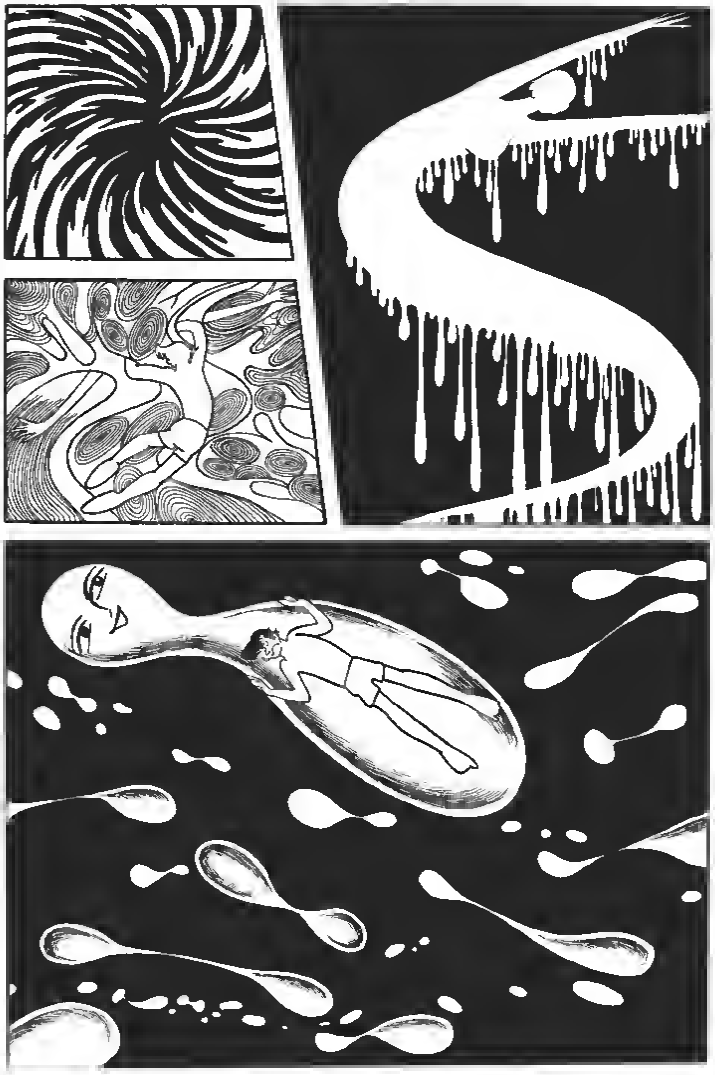
I'M SPENDING ALL MY MONEY TONIGHT!
DRINK ALL YOU LIKE, MISS NANA...
A CUP O' SAKE!!
WHAT, OLD MAN? DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
WHAT'S SAE-ZURI?
ONE SAEZURI!
YEAH, SAEZURI SOUNDS GOOD!
CAN I OFFER YOU SOMETHING ELSE FOR THE LADY?
I'VE LOST THE MOOD!
PIG WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!
AND I'LL HAVE THE PIG FETUS!
EEK!! ...
IT'S WHALE TONGUE.
AW, WHAT DO YOU CARE? GIMME ANOTHER !!
DON'T YOU THINK THIS WAS THE WRONG PLACE FOR HER?
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE LADY...
GEE, THAT'S TOO BAD SEE YA!
I'M NOT STAYING WITH YOU ANY LONGER!!

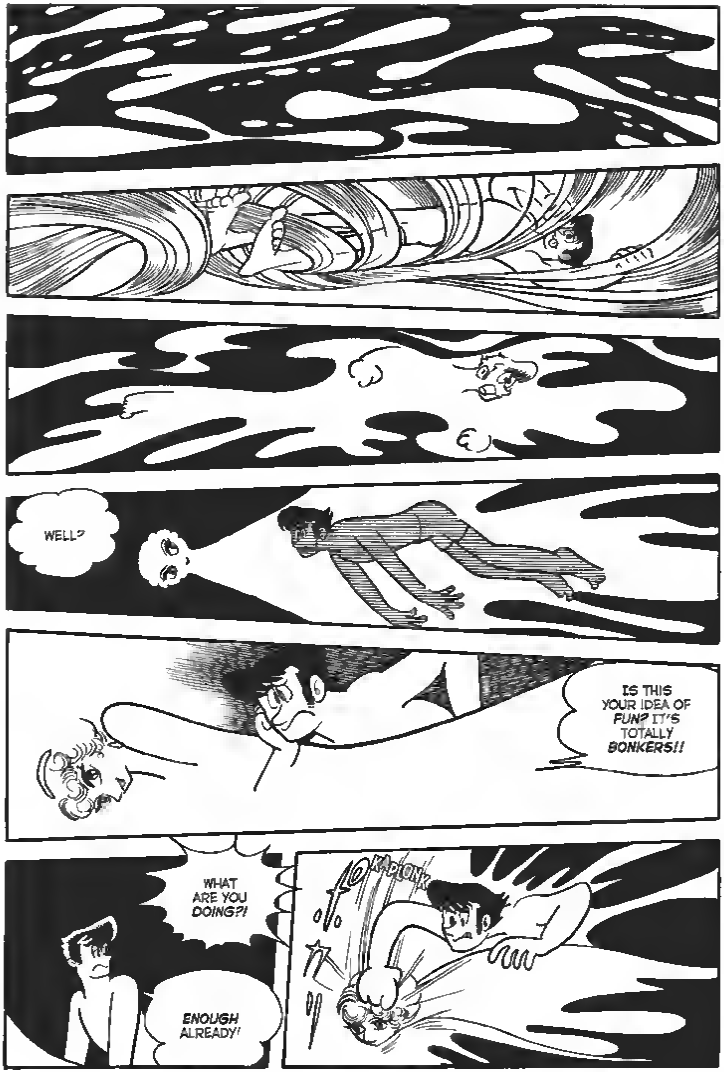
SHE'S GONNA GET IT BEFORE I WALK OUTTA HERE!
?
THAT ZEPHYRUS WOMAN...
BOY, THAT GAVE ME SOME STAMINA!
PLEASE COME AGAIN!
I'LL WAIT IN MY ROOM.
320
ガチリ KACHAK
SHE'S NOT BACK YET? IT'S AWFUL QUIET IN THERE!
UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, WILL SHE...?
321
YOW!
WHACK
WHEN I SEE HER, I'M GONNA WHACK HER ONE, AND—

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WHUH... HUH..?
I'M RINGING FROM THE TOP O' MY HEAD DOWN TO MY TOES.. THAT MUST'VE BEEN SOME BOOZE..!
A WOMAN DOES WHAT SHE MUST TO GET THE UPPER HAND!
COULD'JA GET ME A DRINK..?
FIND ANYTHING INTERESTING IN MY ROOM?
DID SOMEBODY SAY 300,000 YEN..?
MR. GOHONMATSU SEKI, SO-CALLED DESIGNER... BUT REALLY A DETECTIVE HIRED FOR 300,000 YEN..
BON SOIR...
WELL, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
YOU SAID YOU COULD DRINK ENOUGH TO SWALLOW THE EARTH, DIDN'T YOU?
MY NAME'S NOT BACCHUS
HERE YOU GO, BACCHUS!

HOW COME YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE THAT? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CLOTHES TO WEAR?
MORE THAN THE EARTH -- I'LL LET YOU EMBRACE MY BODY AND DRINK FROM IT, TOO!
HEE HEE HEE... STILL A BIT WOOZY, AREN'T YOU?
I NEED LIQUOR... MORE LIQUOR...
THIS SMELLS FUNNY!
SOMETHING IN THE BOOZE...?
YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE QUEEN OF MAMOO! AS IS THE CUSTOM OF MY COUNTRY... A JOYOUS FEAST SHALL BEGIN!
HA HA HA!
YOU, TOO, ARE LIKE ALL THE OTHER MEN...!
I FEEL LIKE I'M SINKING!
EVERY-THING'S GONE DARK!

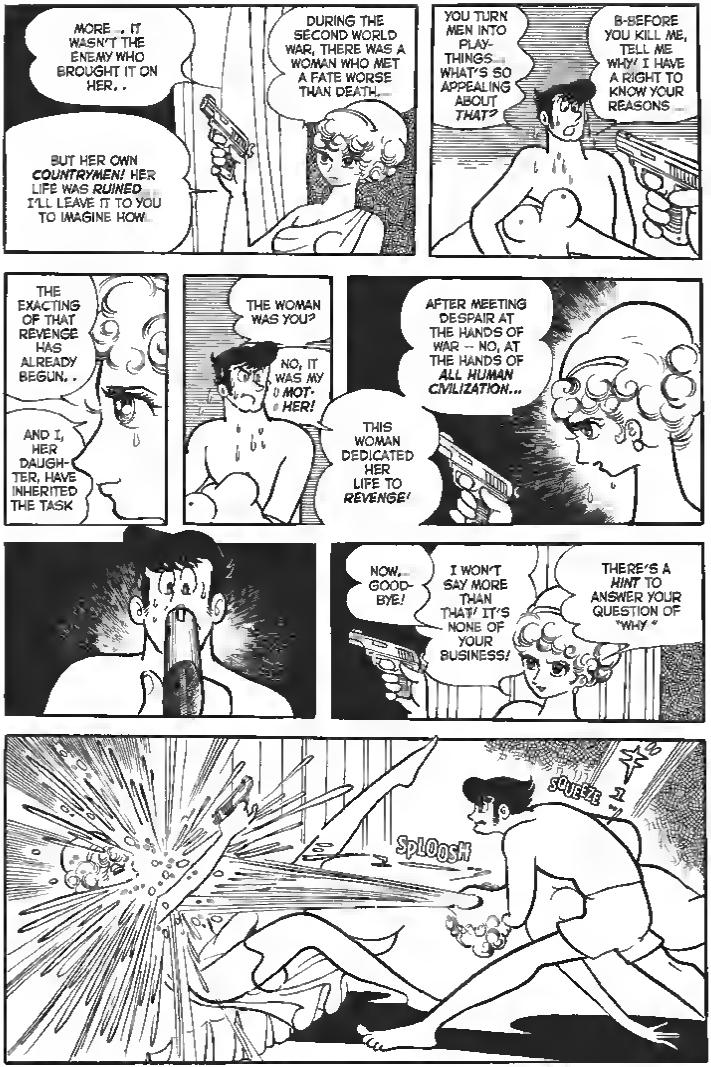
HO HO HO HO HO HO HO!
HO HO HO HO!
WATCH MY ENTIRE BODY MELT INTO THIS GLASS!
HO HO HO HO! HO HO HO... HERE I AM!



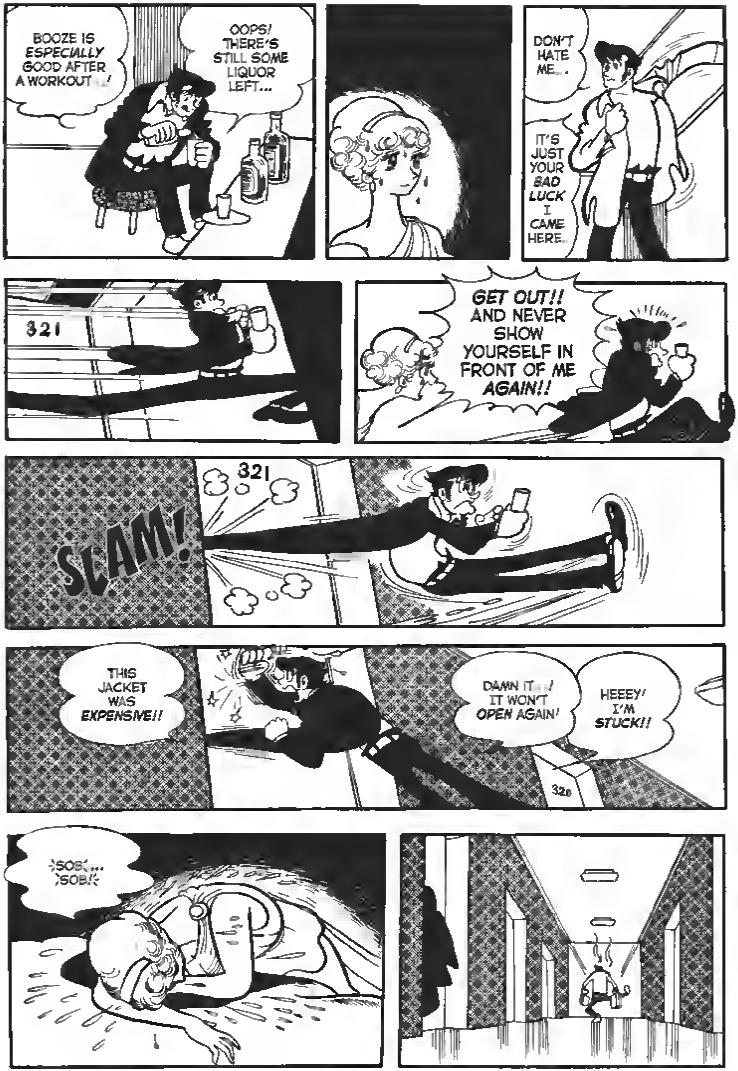

WELL?
IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF *FUN?* IT'S TOTALLY *BONKERS!!*
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*
ENOUGH ALREADY!
BONK

THIS IS A DOLL, RIGHT?
YOU THINK I'M THAT BIG OF AN IDIOT?
I SAW THROUGH YOUR LITTLE TRICKS...
I JUST PRETENDED TO BE TAKEN IN!
THE REAL YOU IS OVER THERE!
JUST A BLOW-UP DOLL...
SO .. WHAT'S WITH THE LSD AND THE DOLL?
SAILORS HAVE GIVEN ME LSD FIVE OR SIX TIMES
PROBABLY THAT LSD STUFF. . .
YOU MIXED SOME DRUG INTO THE ALCOHOL, DIDN'T YOU?
IT NEVER HAD ANY EFFECT ON ME. .
IT JUST MAKES ME KINDA RELAXED - LIKE I FEEL RIGHT NOW.
ANY MAN WHO HOOKS UP WITH YOU GETS WHAT HE DESERVES!
YOU'RE AN AWFUL WOMAN

SO... YOU'VE WORKED IT OUT!
BUT, WHY?
YEAH, I DID... EVEN A FOOL LIKE ME!
TELL ME WHY!
WHY THE HELL DO YOU *DO* IT?!
MEN ROLL AROUND WITH THIS DOLL.
SINCE THEY CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IT AND YOU.
YOU LURE MEN TO YOU, GIVE THEM LSD AND TRICK THEM INTO SLEEPING WITH THE DOLL..
WHILE YOU JUST SIT THERE *WATCHING* THEM, RIGHT?
...
YOU'RE GONNA *SHOOT* ME? YOU'D BETTER NOT ! YOU'LL REGRET IT!
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH! NOW YOU *DIE*!
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!
SHIFF

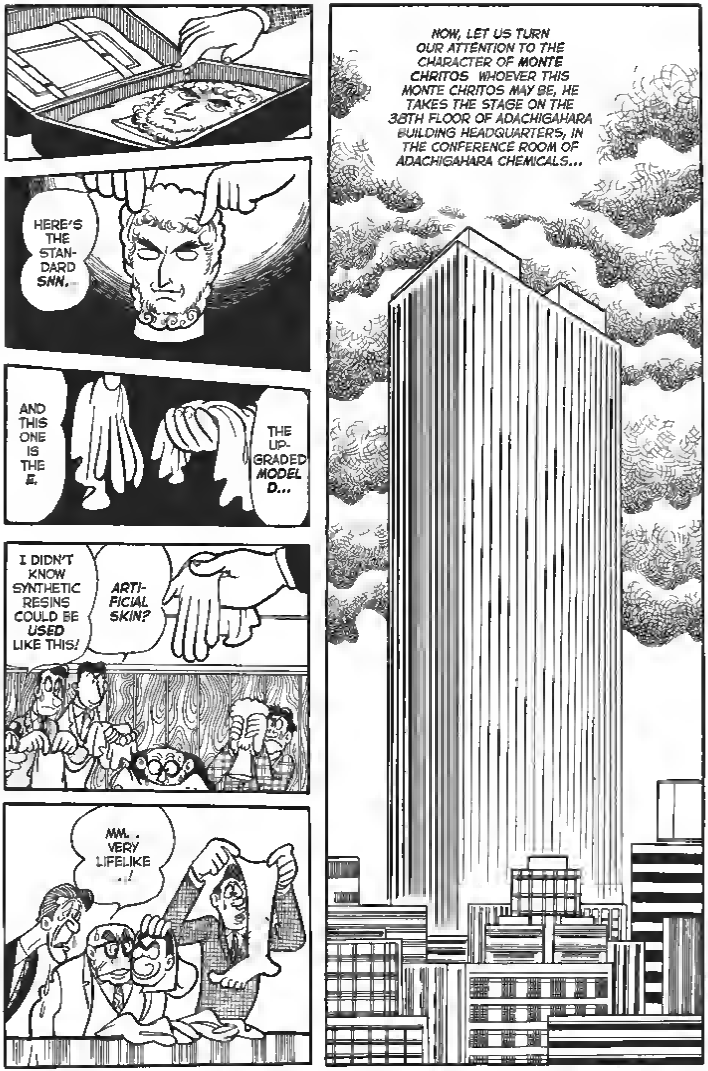

MORE . . IT WASN'T THE ENEMY WHO BROUGHT IT ON HER. .
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THERE WAS A WOMAN WHO MET A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH...
BUT HER OWN COUNTRYMEN! HER LIFE WAS RUINED... I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO IMAGINE HOW...
YOU TURN MEN INTO PLAY-THINGS... WHAT'S SO APPEALING ABOUT THAT?
B-BEFORE YOU KILL ME, TELL ME WHY! I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW YOUR REASONS...
THE EXACTING OF THAT REVENGE HAS ALREADY BEGUN. .
AND I, HER DAUGH-TER, HAVE INHERITED THE TASK
THE WOMAN WAS YOU?
NO, IT WAS MY MOT-HER!
AFTER MEETING DESPAIR AT THE HANDS OF WAR -- NO, AT THE HANDS OF ALL HUMAN CIVILIZATION...
THIS WOMAN DEDICATED HER LIFE TO REVENGE!
NOW, GOOD-BYE!
I WON'T SAY MORE THAN THAT! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
THERE'S A HINT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION OF "WHY"
SQUEEZE
SPLOOSH

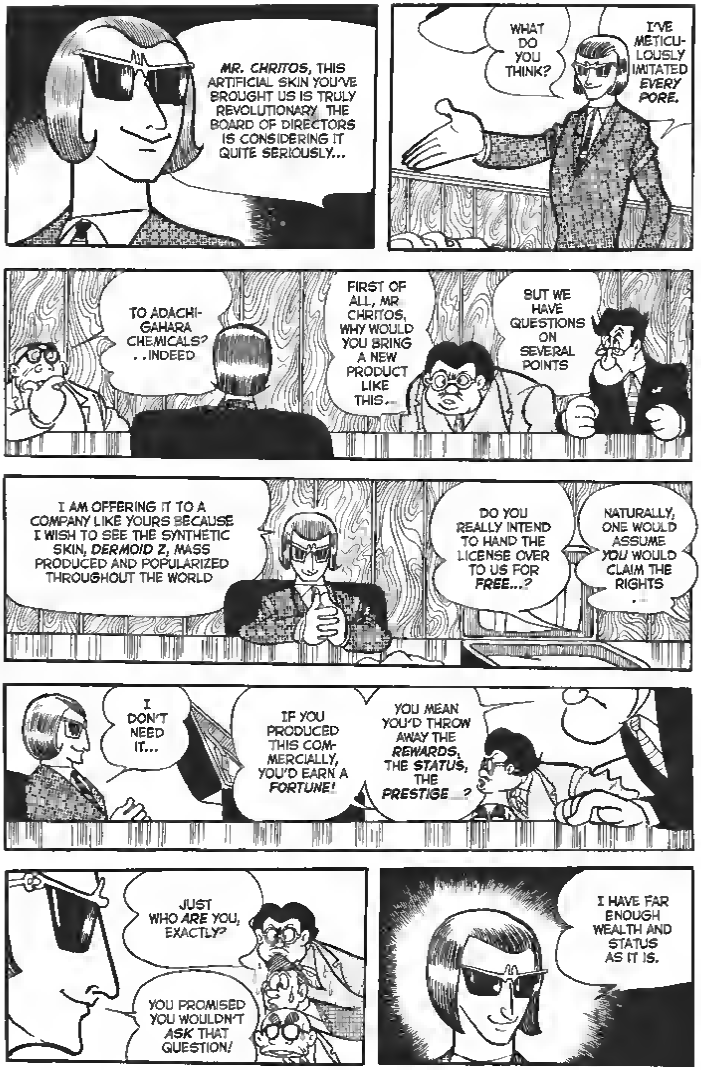
THWAP
YOU GOT NO ONE TO BLAME BUT YOURSELF FOR GETTIN' WALLOPED!
FWHUMP
AND FORGET EVERY-THING ABOUT EACH OTHER.
WE MEET, PART WAYS..
IT'S INTERESTING.. A MAN LIKE ME AND A WOMAN LIKE YOU YOU'D NEVER EXPECT WE'D MEET.. HERE, IN A HOTEL LIKE THIS.
BUT RELAX - I WON'T TELL OLD MAN ADACHIGA-HARA YOUR LITTLE SECRET.
HERE'S WHERE I SAY GOODBYE ..

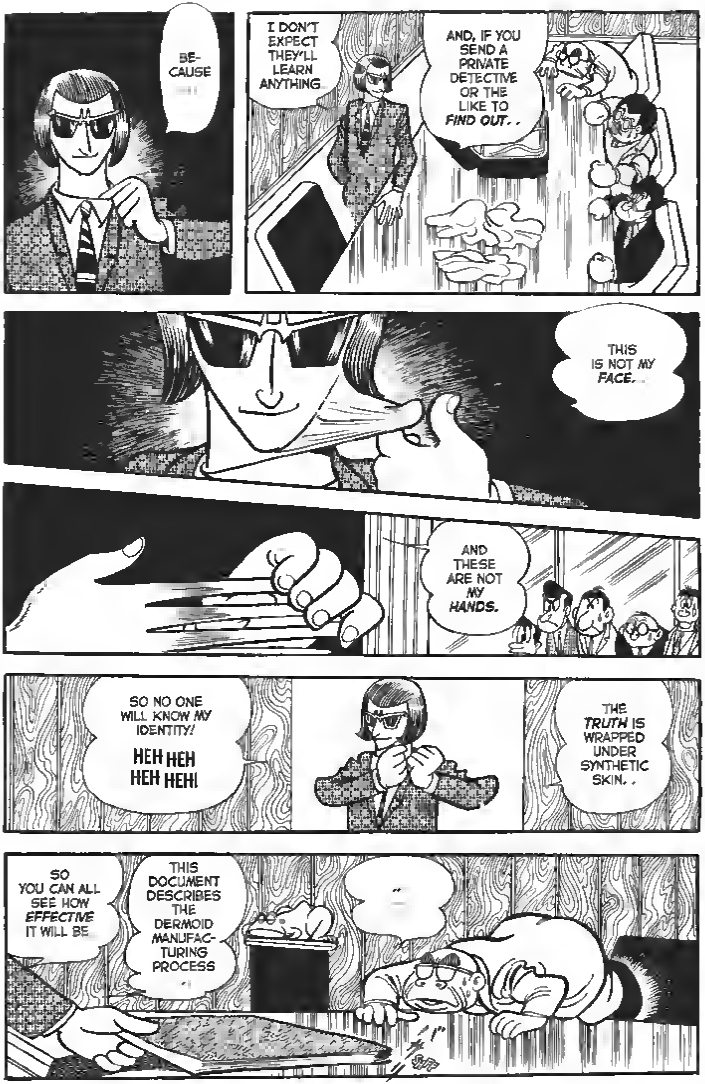

BOOZE IS *ESPECIALLY* GOOD AFTER A WORKOUT!!
OOPS! THERE'S STILL SOME LIQUOR LEFT...
DON'T HATE ME...
IT'S JUST YOUR *BAD LUCK* I CAME HERE.
321
GET OUT!! AND NEVER SHOW YOURSELF IN FRONT OF ME *AGAIN!!*
SLAM!
321
THIS JACKET WAS *EXPENSIVE!!*
DAMN IT...! IT WON'T *OPEN* AGAIN!
HEEEY! I'M *STUCK!!*
320
SOB... SOB!

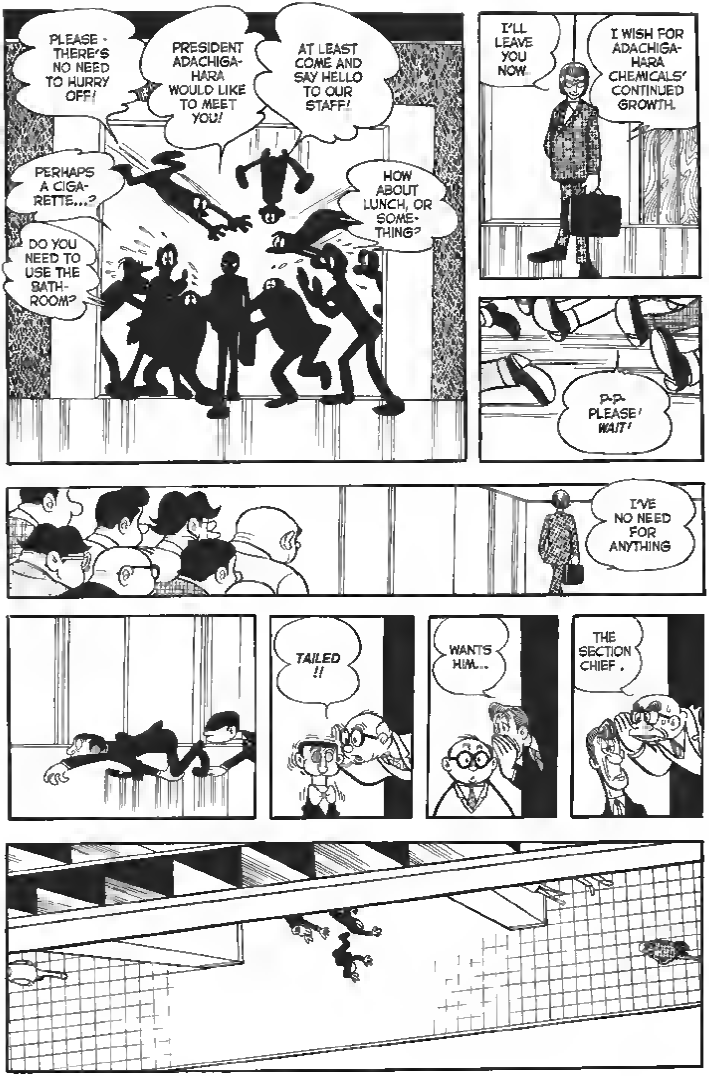
CHAPTER 5

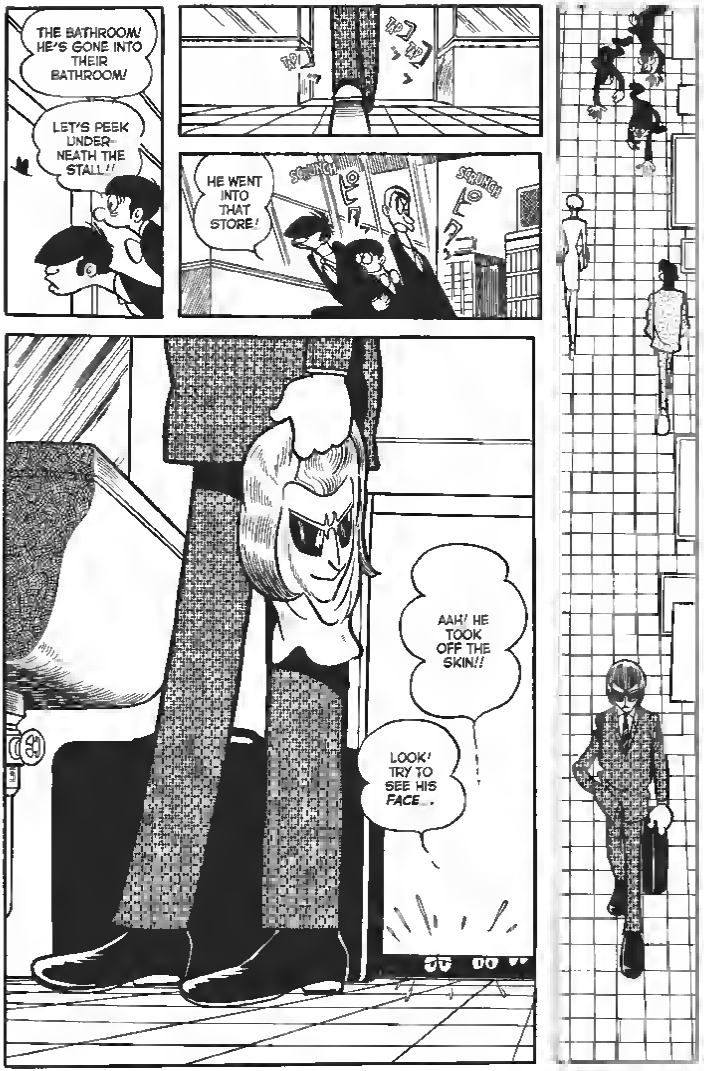
APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT


NOW, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE CHARACTER OF MONTE CHRITOS. WHOEVER THIS MONTE CHRITOS MAY BE, HE TAKES THE STAGE ON THE 38TH FLOOR OF ADACHIGAHARA BUILDING HEADQUARTERS, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF ADACHIGAHARA CHEMICALS...
HERE'S THE STANDARD SNN...
AND THIS ONE IS THE E.
THE UP-GRADED MODEL D...
I DIDN'T KNOW SYNTHETIC RESINS COULD BE USED LIKE THIS!
ARTIFICIAL SKIN?
MM... VERY LIFELIKE...!


MR. CHRITOS, THIS ARTIFICIAL SKIN YOU'VE BROUGHT US IS TRULY REVOLUTIONARY. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS CONSIDERING IT QUITE SERIOUSLY...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'VE METICULOUSLY IMITATED EVERY PORE.
TO ADACHI-GAHARA CHEMICALS? . . INDEED
FIRST OF ALL, MR CHRITOS, WHY WOULD YOU BRING A NEW PRODUCT LIKE THIS...
BUT WE HAVE QUESTIONS ON SEVERAL POINTS
I AM OFFERING IT TO A COMPANY LIKE YOURS BECAUSE I WISH TO SEE THE SYNTHETIC SKIN, DERMOID Z, MASS PRODUCED AND POPULARIZED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO HAND THE LICENSE OVER TO US FOR FREE...?
NATURALLY, ONE WOULD ASSUME YOU WOULD CLAIM THE RIGHTS . . .
I DON'T NEED IT...
IF YOU PRODUCED THIS COMMERCIALLY, YOU'D EARN A FORTUNE!
YOU MEAN YOU'D THROW AWAY THE REWARDS, THE STATUS, THE PRESTIGE...?
JUST WHO ARE YOU, EXACTLY?
YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T ASK THAT QUESTION!
I HAVE FAR ENOUGH WEALTH AND STATUS AS IT IS.


BE-
CAUSE
I DON'T EXPECT THEY'LL LEARN ANYTHING
AND, IF YOU SEND A PRIVATE DETECTIVE OR THE LIKE TO FIND OUT. .
THIS IS NOT MY FACE. .
AND THESE ARE NOT MY HANDS.
SO NO ONE WILL KNOW MY IDENTITY!
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
THE TRUTH IS WRAPPED UNDER SYNTHETIC SKIN. .
SO YOU CAN ALL SEE HOW EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE.
THIS DOCUMENT DESCRIBES THE DERMOID MANUFAC-TURING PROCESS

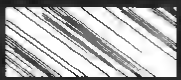

PLEASE - THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY OFF!
PRESIDENT ADACHIGA-HARA WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU!
AT LEAST COME AND SAY HELLO TO OUR STAFF!
PERHAPS A CIGA-RETTE...?
HOW ABOUT LUNCH, OR SOME-THING?
DO YOU NEED TO USE THE BATH-ROOM?
I'LL LEAVE YOU NOW.
I WISH FOR ADACHIGA-HARA CHEMICALS' CONTINUED GROWTH.
P-P-PLEASE! WAIT!
I'VE NO NEED FOR ANYTHING
TAILED !!
WANTS HIM...
THE SECTION CHIEF.

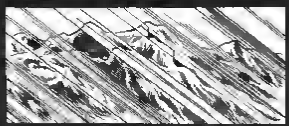

THE BATHROOM! HE'S GONE INTO THEIR BATHROOM!
LET'S PEEK UNDER-NEATH THE STALL!!
HE WENT INTO THAT STORE!
AAH! HE TOOK OFF THE SKIN!!
LOOK! TRY TO SEE HIS FACE...

CHAPTER 6

LIGHT MOTIF

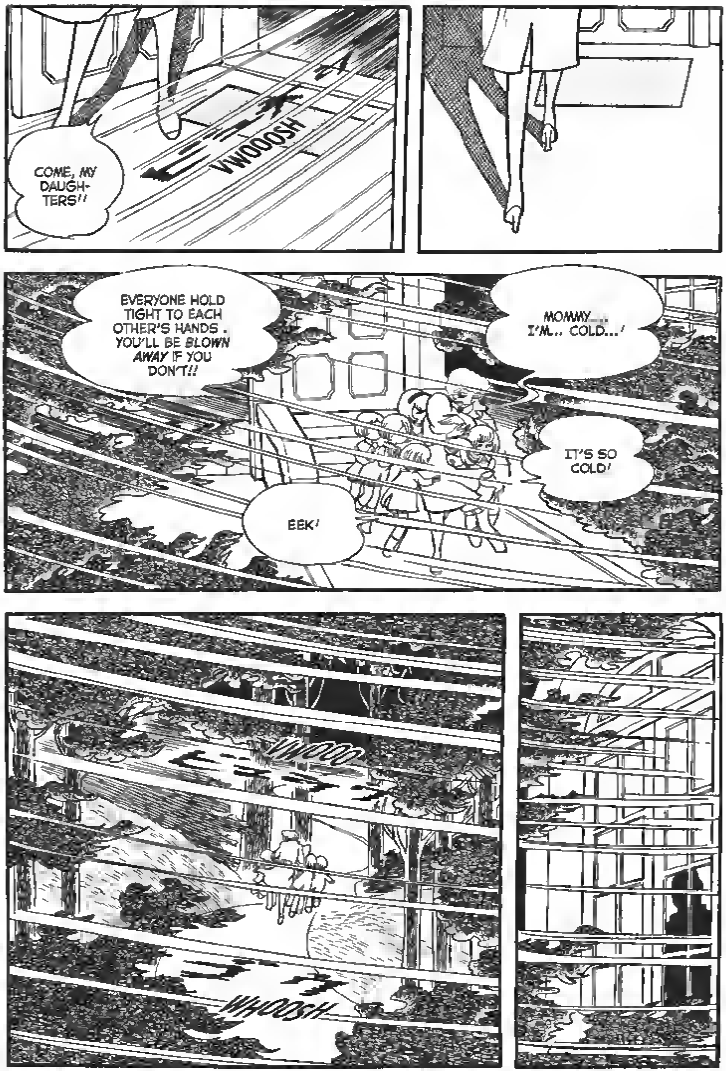
1940, LOCARNO...

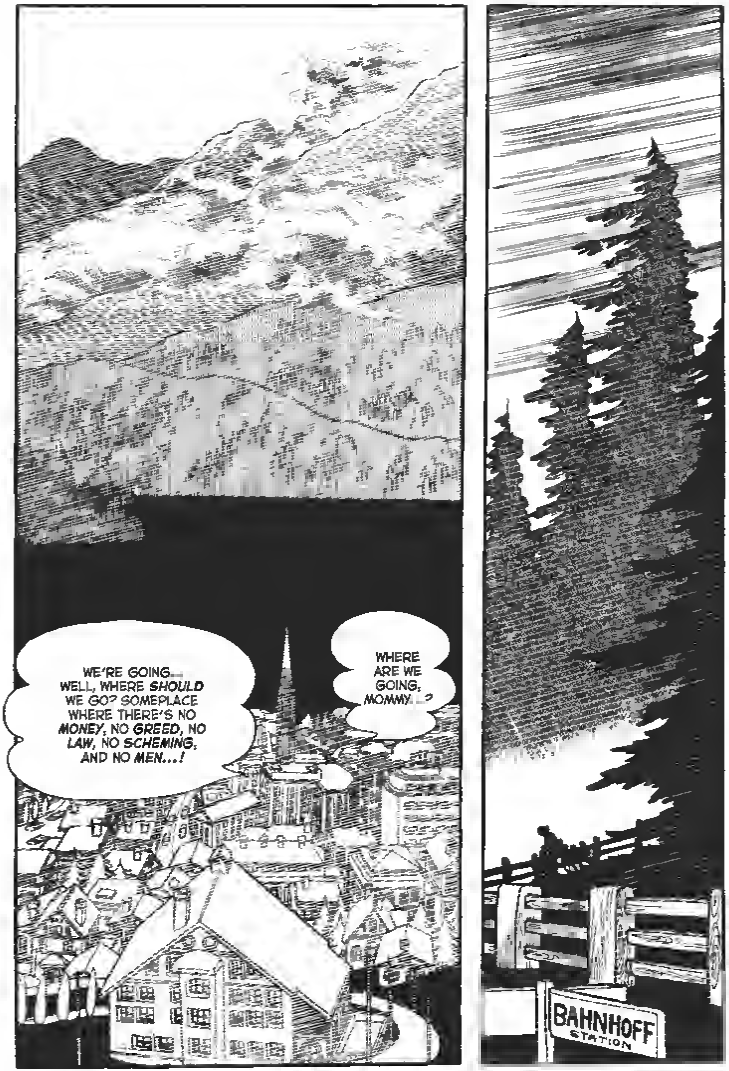




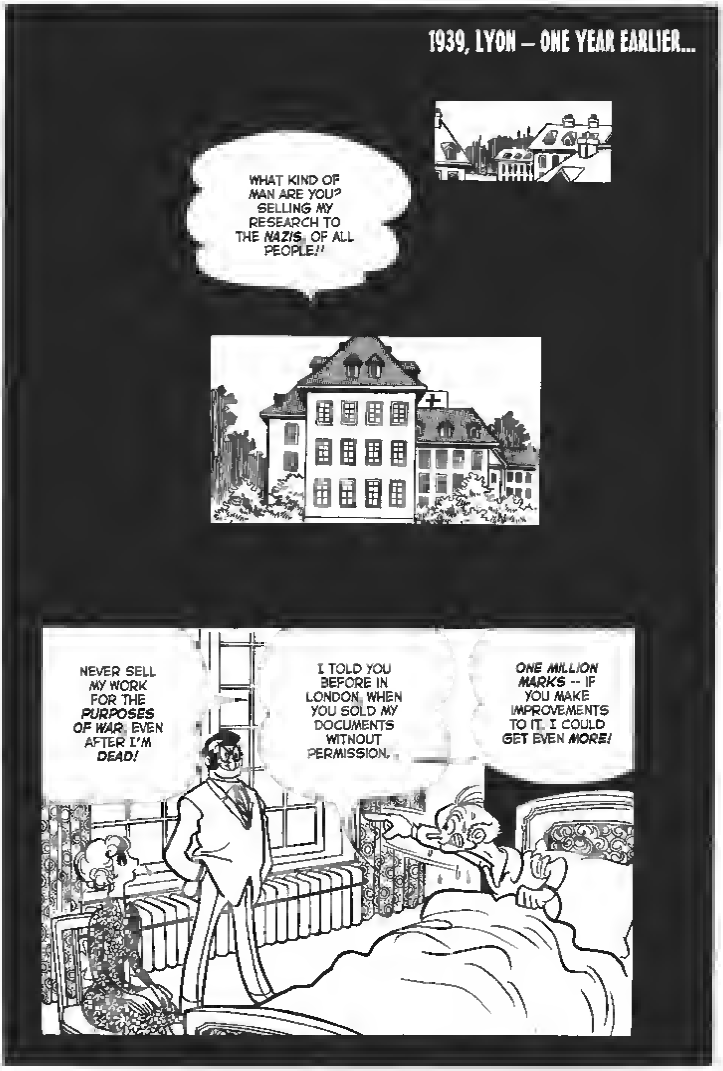
THIS GAME... THIS PATHETIC PLAY... IT'S ALL OVER NOW! THE CURTAINS HAVE *CLOSED!*
WHOOOOSH
OOHH OOHHH! YOU... YOU'RE *HORRIBLE!* YOU'RE A DREADFUL *MAN!!*

"OUR"...?! HOW DARE YOU?! HE WAS MY FATHER!!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP FROM YOUR DREAM AND FACE REALITY, MY DEAR WIFE? OUR FATHER'S INHERITANCE WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE PROPER WAY, OF COURSE!
RATHER, IT WILL FAVOR ME! NOW, LET US DISCUSS THE DIVISION OF THE ESTATE FROM THE BEGINNING!
BUT THE LAW DOESN'T HEAR SUCH PROTESTS!
FATHER TO ME AND GRANDFATHER TO THESE CHILDREN ...!
COME, DAUGHTERS... WE'RE ALL LEAVING TOGETHER!
NO!! I WON'T!! I'M LEAVING!!
WHOOOSH
YOU'D BEST NOT GO, ZEPHYRUS.
IN THIS STORM...? HOW CRUEL TO TAKE CHILDREN OUT INTO IT!

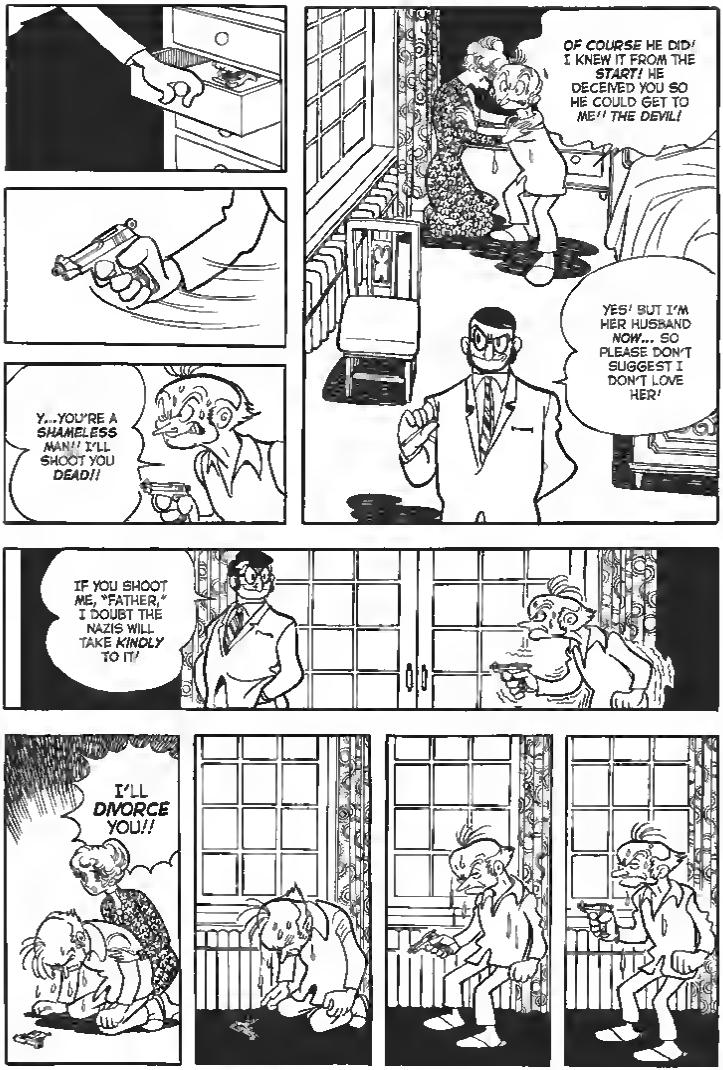

COME, MY DAUGHTERS!!
VWOOOSH
EVERYONE HOLD TIGHT TO EACH OTHER'S HANDS. YOU'LL BE BLOWN AWAY IF YOU DON'T!!
MOMMY... I'M... COLD...!
IT'S SO COLD!
EEK!
WHOOSH

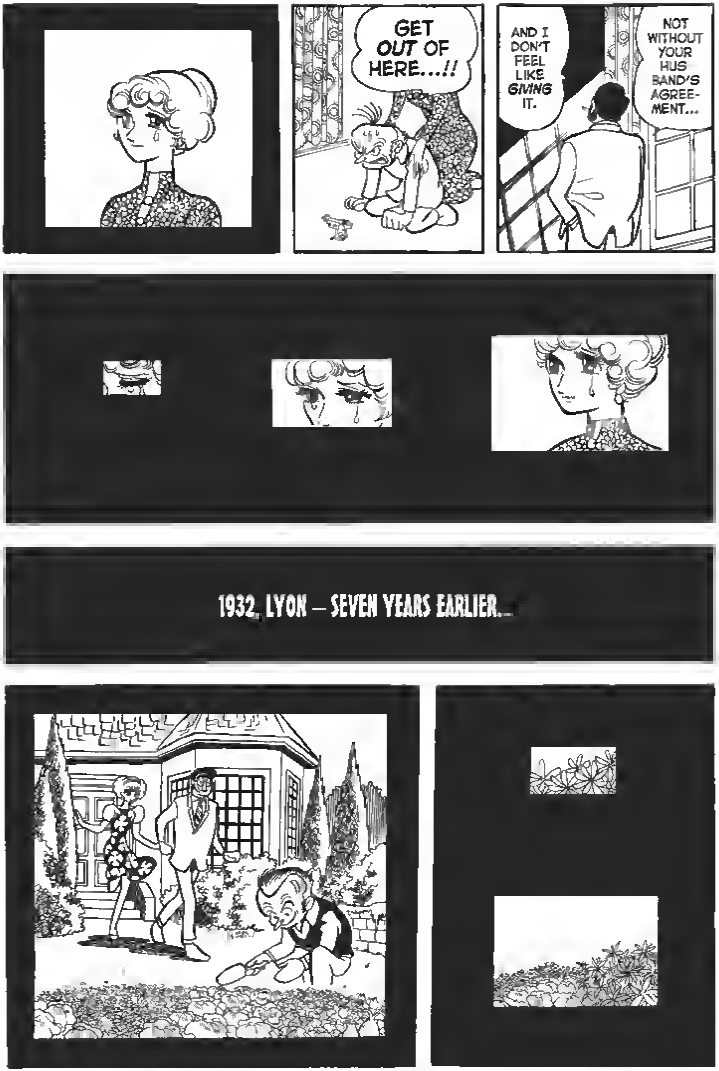

WE'RE GOING... WELL, WHERE *SHOULD* WE GO? SOMEPLACE WHERE THERE'S NO *MONEY*, NO *GREED*, NO *LAW*, NO *SCHEMING*, AND NO *MEN*...!
WHERE ARE WE GOING, MOMMY...?
BAHNHOFF
STATION

WHOOOSH
COLD... I'M SO COLD ...!
WHOOO
WHOOOH
WOOO

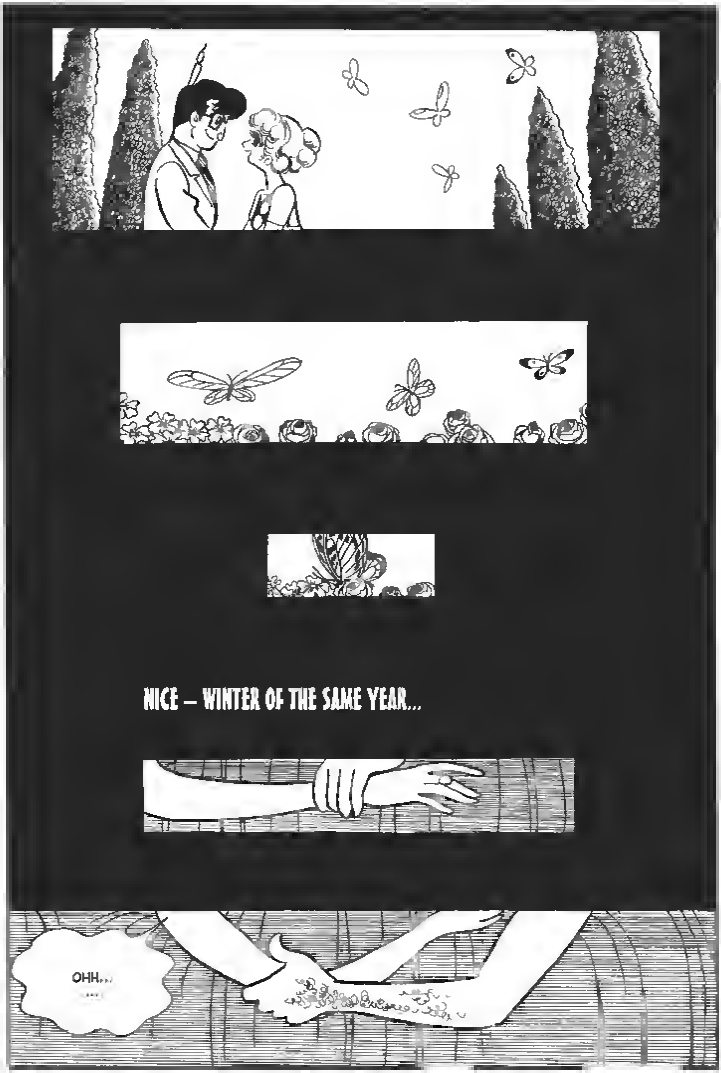

1939, LYON – ONE YEAR EARLIER...
WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU? SELLING MY RESEARCH TO THE NAZIS, OF ALL PEOPLE!!
NEVER SELL MY WORK FOR THE PURPOSES OF WAR, EVEN AFTER I'M DEAD!
I TOLD YOU BEFORE IN LONDON, WHEN YOU SOLD MY DOCUMENTS WITHOUT PERMISSION.
ONE MILLION MARKS -- IF YOU MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO IT, I COULD GET EVEN MORE!

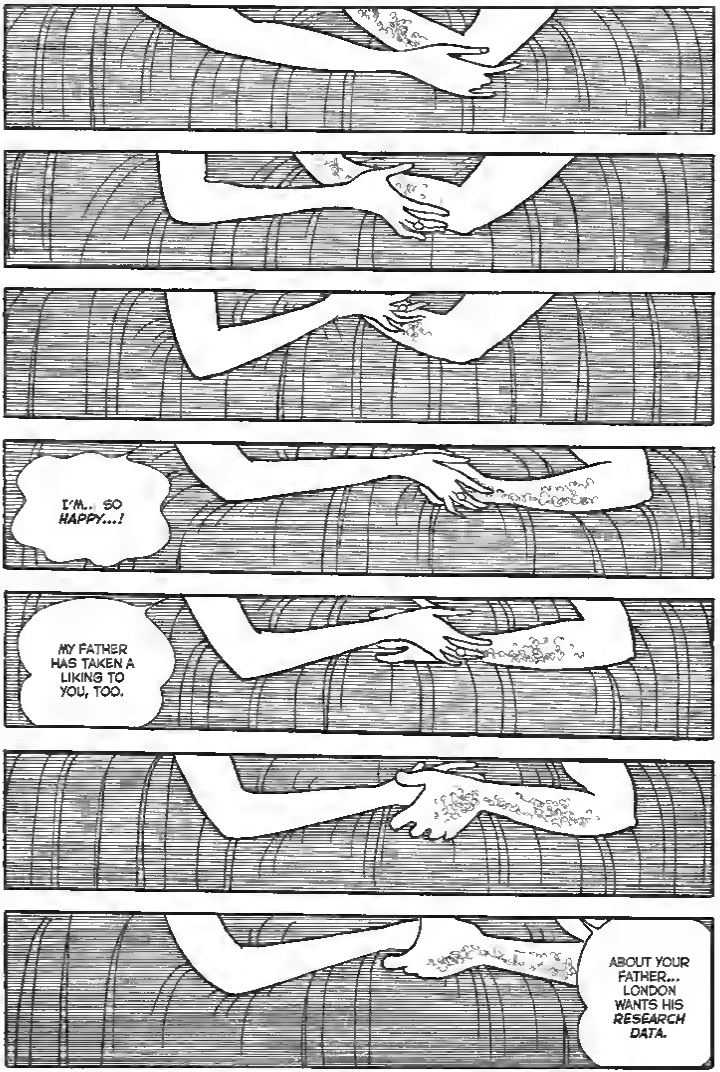
YOU ADMIT YOU'RE A MERCHANT OF DEATH?!
YOU.. YOU WOULD USE WAR FOR PROFIT?
IF THERE WAS NO WAR IN THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN? HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE UNEMPLOYED? HOW MANY CORPORATIONS WOULD CRUMBLE?
NONETHELESS "FATHER" -- WAR IS ALL ABOUT MONEY!
DEAR!! PLEASE DON'T QUARREL !!
WHY .. YOU... NO GOOD...!
WAR IS MANKIND'S NECESSARY EVIL. THAT'S WHY I INTEND TO MAKE USE OF IT FOR MY OWN ENDS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
THE ONLY REASON THE NAZIS LEAVE YOUR FATHER ALONE IS BECAUSE OF ME!
TOO LATE -- THE CONTRACTS ARE SIGNED!
ZEPHYRUS, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE WHAT YOUR HUSBAND HAS DONE!!
PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU! CUT YOUR TIES WITH THE NAZIS!!
DID .. DID YOU MARRY ME TO GET YOUR HANDS ON MY FATHER'S WORK?!

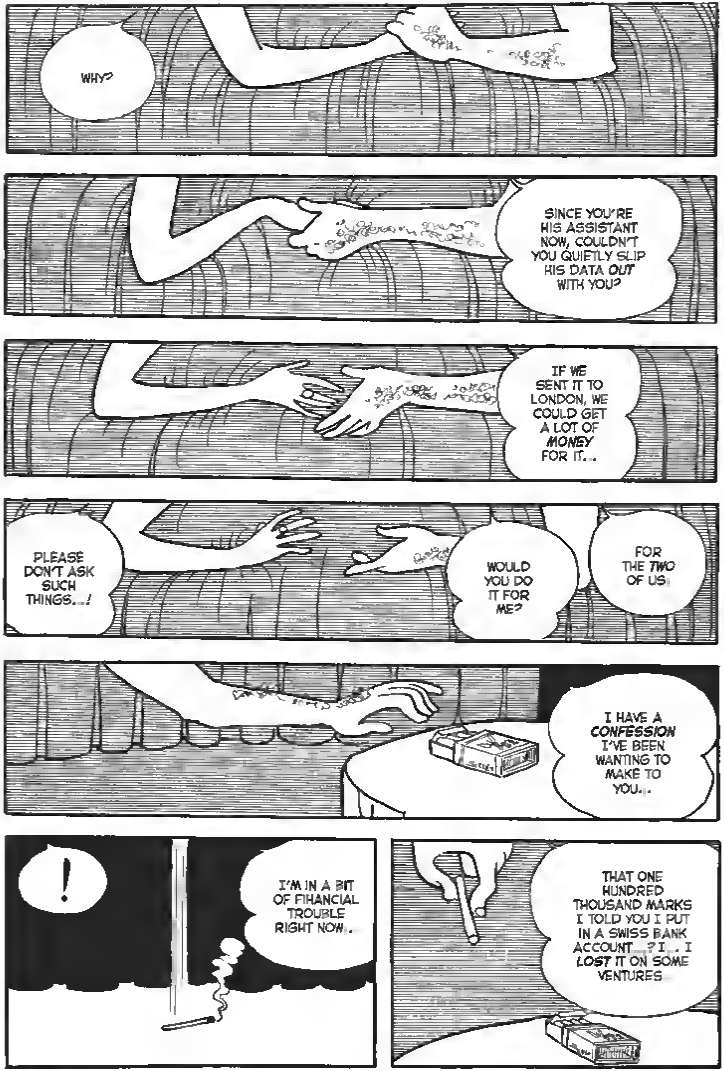

OF COURSE HE DID! I KNEW IT FROM THE START! HE DECEIVED YOU SO HE COULD GET TO ME!! THE DEVIL!
YES! BUT I'M HER HUSBAND NOW... SO PLEASE DON'T SUGGEST I DON'T LOVE HER!
Y...YOU'RE A SHAMELESS MAN!! I'LL SHOOT YOU DEAD!!
IF YOU SHOOT ME, "FATHER," I DOUBT THE NAZIS WILL TAKE KINDLY TO IT!
I'LL DIVORCE YOU!!


GET OUT OF HERE...!!
AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE GIVING IT.
NOT WITHOUT YOUR HUSBAND'S AGREEMENT...
1932, LYON – SEVEN YEARS EARLIER...

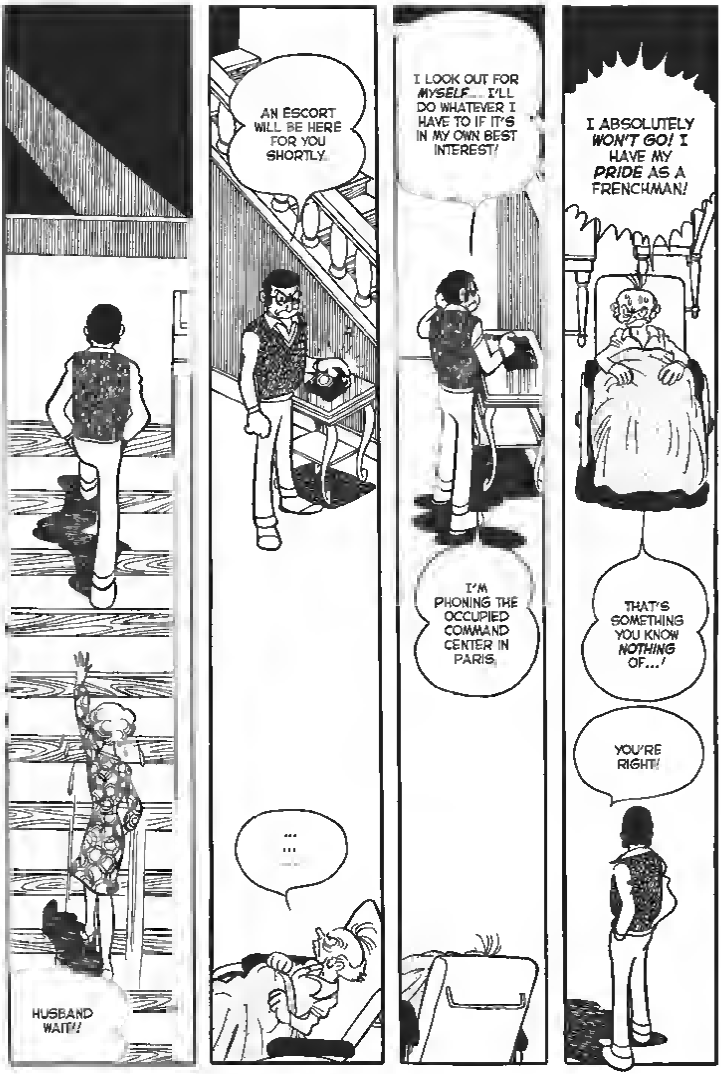
FATHER, THIS IS THE BOYFRIEND I TOLD YOU ABOUT! ISN'T HE A CHARMING MAN...?
SHE'S MY ONLY DAUGHTER. FRANKLY, I HAD WANTED TO KEEP HER BY MY SIDE...
I'M COME TO ASK FOR . . YOUR DAUGHTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.
MY ONLY INTEREST IS IN PUTTING TOGETHER A HOME AND SOME ASSETS FOR YOUR LOVELY ASSISTANT HERE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVE INDUCTION?
FATHER WANTS ME TO BE HIS RESEARCH ASSISTANT.
VERY WELL... I GIVE YOU MY DAUGHTER!!
DOH, HOW AWFUL... TREATING ME LIKE AN OLD BOOK, OR SOMETHING!
THEN YOU CAN LOCK YOURSELF AWAY IN YOUR LABORATORY!

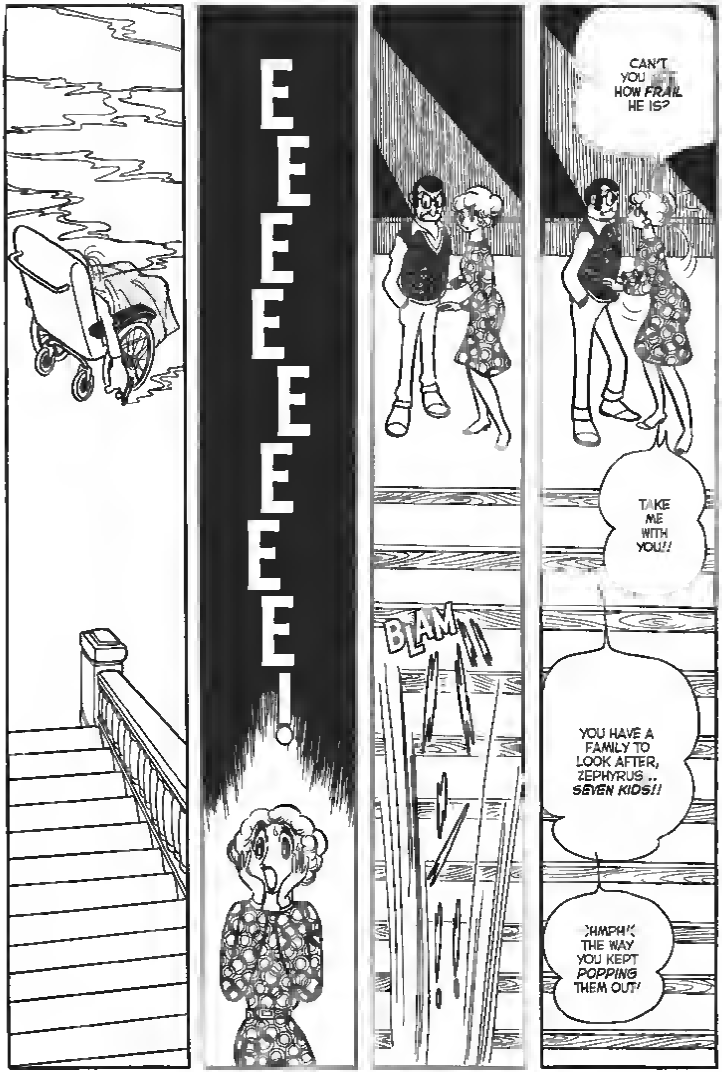

NICE – WINTER OF THE SAME YEAR...
OHH...

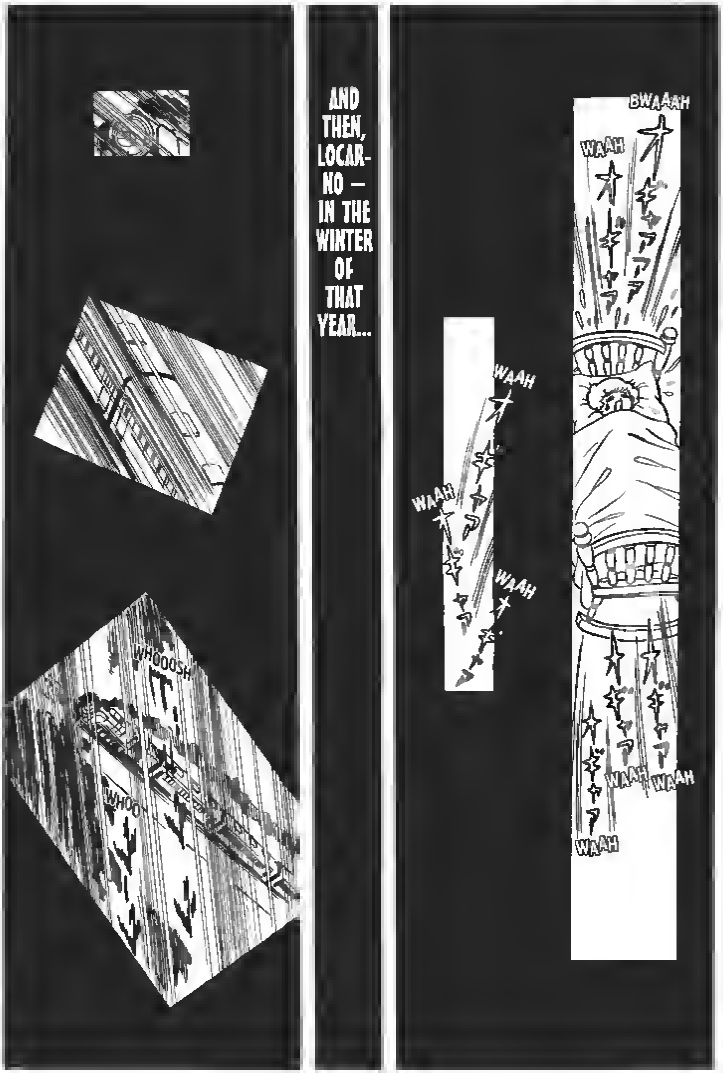

I'M... SO HAPPY...!
MY FATHER HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU, TOO.
ABOUT YOUR FATHER... LONDON WANTS HIS RESEARCH DATA.

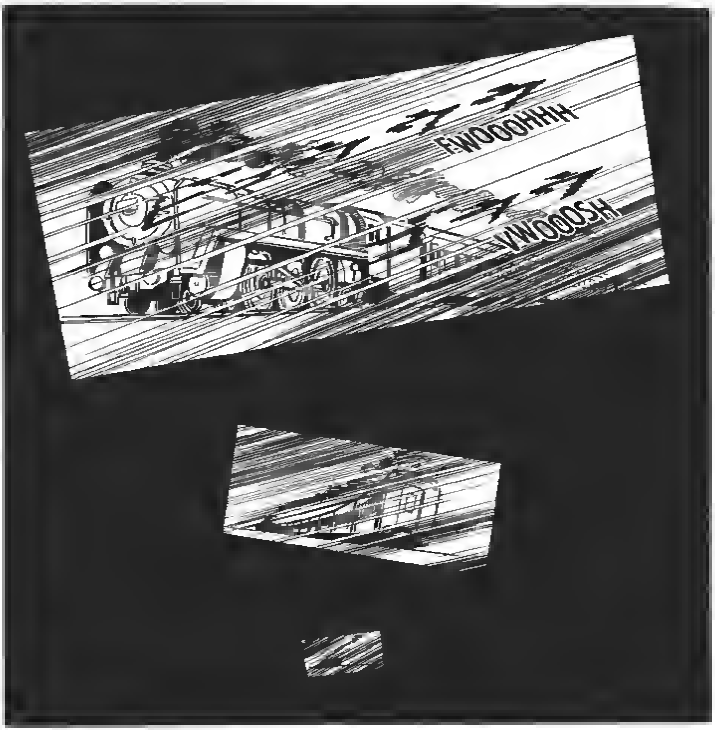

WHY?
SINCE YOU'RE HIS ASSISTANT NOW, COULDN'T YOU QUIETLY SLIP HIS DATA *OUT* WITH YOU?
IF WE SENT IT TO LONDON, WE COULD GET A LOT OF *MONEY* FOR IT...
PLEASE DON'T ASK SUCH THINGS...!
WOULD YOU DO IT FOR ME?
FOR THE *TWO* OF US!
I HAVE A *CONFESSION* I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MAKE TO YOU...
!
I'M IN A BIT OF FINANCIAL TROUBLE RIGHT NOW...
THAT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MARKS I TOLD YOU I PUT IN A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT...? I... I *LOST* IT ON SOME VENTURES...

1940, LYON – EIGHT YEARS LATER...
SO... YOU'VE SOLD MY FATHER OUT AT LAST?!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN GO LIVE IN THE GHETTO! NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT NOW ..!
FATHER, I'M FOLLOWING THE NAZIS' ORDERS AND SENDING YOU TO THEIR LABORATORY IN WIESBADEN!

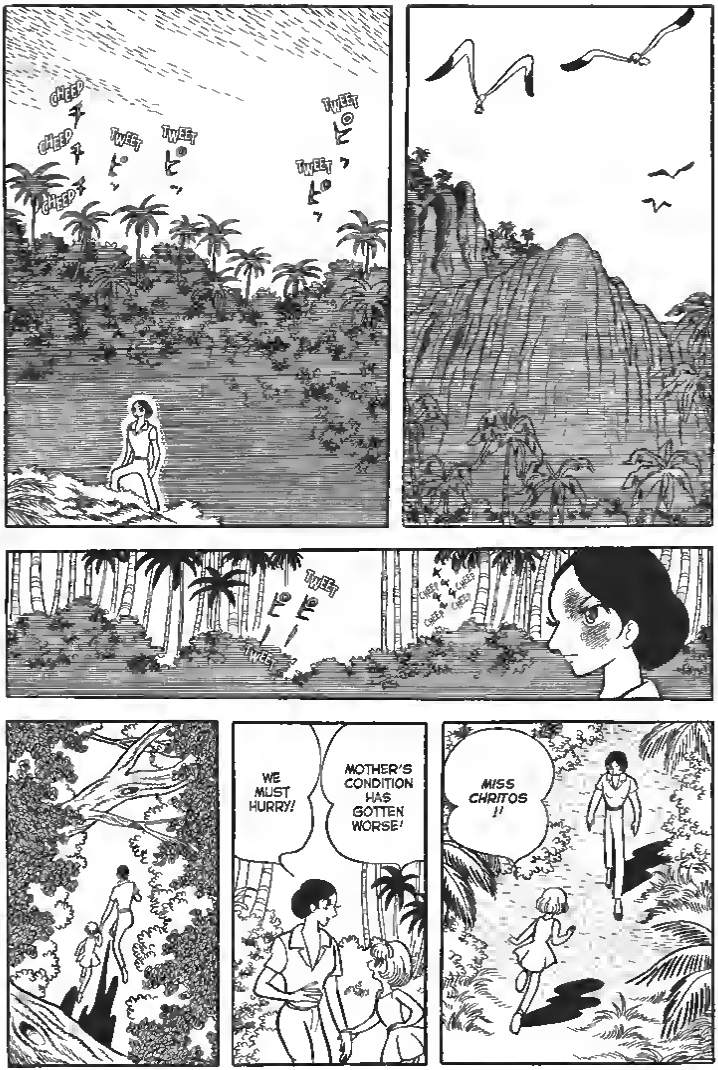

HUSBAND WAIT!/
AN ESCORT WILL BE HERE FOR YOU SHORTLY.
...
I LOOK OUT FOR *MYSELF*... I'LL DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO IF IT'S IN MY OWN BEST INTEREST!
I'M PHONING THE OCCUPIED COMMAND CENTER IN PARIS.
I ABSOLUTELY *WON'T GO!* I HAVE MY *PRIDE* AS A FRENCHMAN!
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU KNOW *NOTHING* OF...!
YOU'RE RIGHT!


CAN'T YOU SEE HOW *FRAIL* HE IS?
TAKE ME WITH YOU!!
YOU HAVE A FAMILY TO LOOK AFTER, ZEPHYRUS... *SEVEN KIDS!!*
'HMPH'! THE WAY YOU KEPT *POPPING* THEM OUT!
BLAM
EEEEEEEEE!


AND THEN, LOCARNO — IN THE WINTER OF THAT YEAR...
WHOOOSH
WHOO
BWAAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH

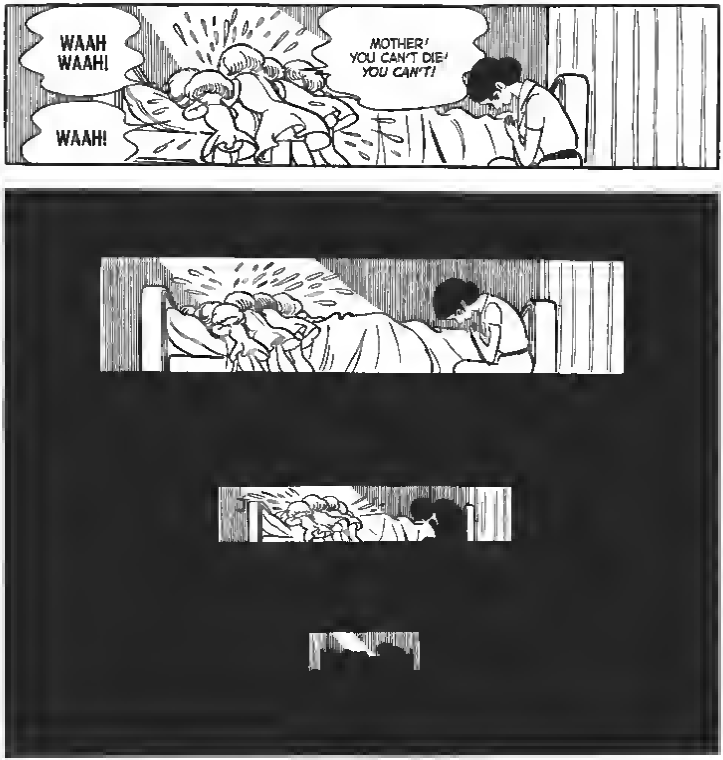


MARCH, 1943 – ON A SMALL ISLE NEAR GUADALCANAL ISLAND...


CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
WE MUST HURRY!
MOTHER'S CONDITION HAS GOTTEN WORSE!
MISS CHRITOS !!

YOUR MOTHER.. YOUR MOTHER'S LIFE COMPLETELY *RUINED!*
LISTEN CLOSELY, ALL OF YOU... YOU'RE JUST CHILDREN, BUT YOU SAW IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES, DIDN'T YOU?
AGAINST THE *WORLD* THAT MADE YOUR MOTHER SUFFER SO!!
AGAINST FATHER?
WHEN YOU'RE GROWN.. I BEG ONE FAVOR OF YOU .. *AVENGE ME.*
AND FINALLY... *MEN!!* LOOK DOWN ON ALL THE MEN OF THE WORLD WITH THE SCORN AND RIDICULE THEY DESERVE! AND DO NOT EVEN *DREAM* OF MARRYING ONE!
NEXT, *LAW!* HOWEVER POSSIBLE, BRING THE LAW AND MORAL CODES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD INTO UTTER CHAOS!
FIRST, *MONEY!!* IF MONEY CONTROLS MANKIND, ROBBING THEM OF THEIR FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS, I WANT YOU TO *DESTROY* IT!
NEVER, NEVER.. FORGET THESE THREE THINGS..!

I THANK YOU FOR *SAVING* US FROM THE DIRE STRAITS WE WERE IN. YOU HAVE MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE.
MISS CHRITOS
FOR FIVE YEARS, I'VE LIVED ON THIS ISLAND... AND I CAN *CONTINUE* MY RESEARCH WITHOUT ANYONE EVER DISTURBING ME.
THIS ISLAND BELONGS TO *ME*... THE FRIGHTENING HANDS OF CIVILIZATION, LAW AND MEN DO NOT REACH *HERE*.
A LONG TIME AGO, I WORKED FOR YOUR FATHER AND I OWE HIM A *GREAT DEBT*. WHAT I'VE DONE DOESN'T COVER ONE MILLIONTH OF IT.
YOU ARE VERY WELCOME
MOTHER!!
EVERYONE... PLEASE DO AS MISS CHRITOS TELLS YOU... ALL RIGHT...? GOOD... GIRLS...
OHH... MISS CHRITOS... NOW THAT YOU'VE SAID THOSE WORDS, I HAVE NO MORE WORRIES.
I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GIRLS AND *PROTECT* THEM.

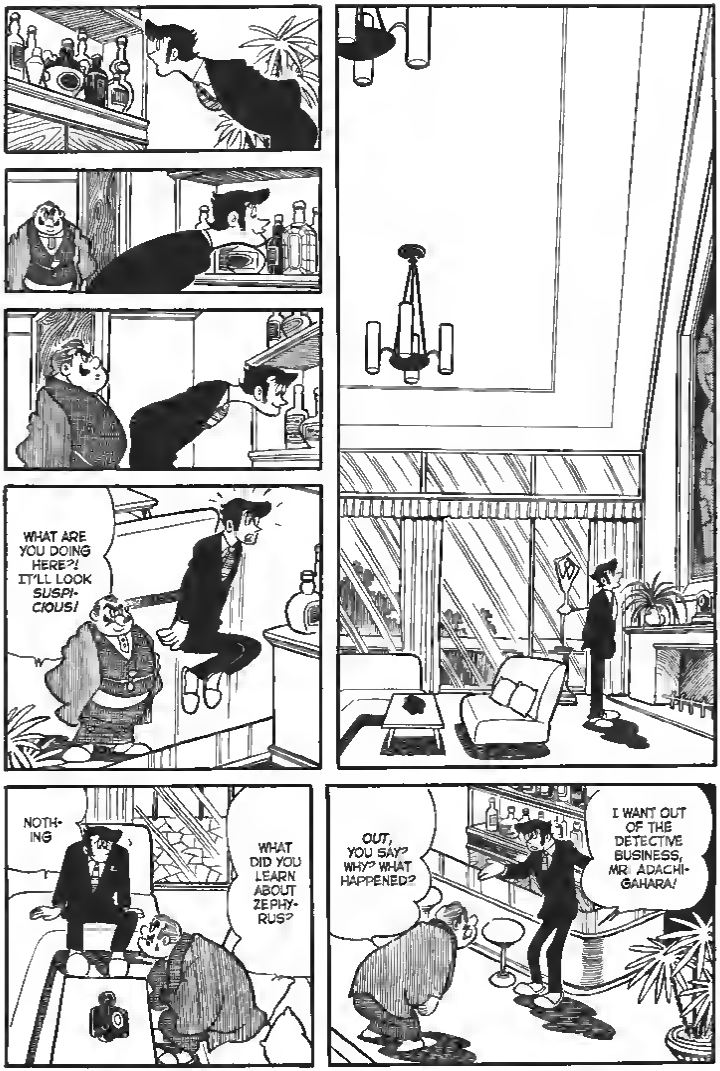

WAAH
WAAH!
WAAH!
MOTHER!
YOU CAN'T DIE!
YOU CAN'T!

CHAPTER 7

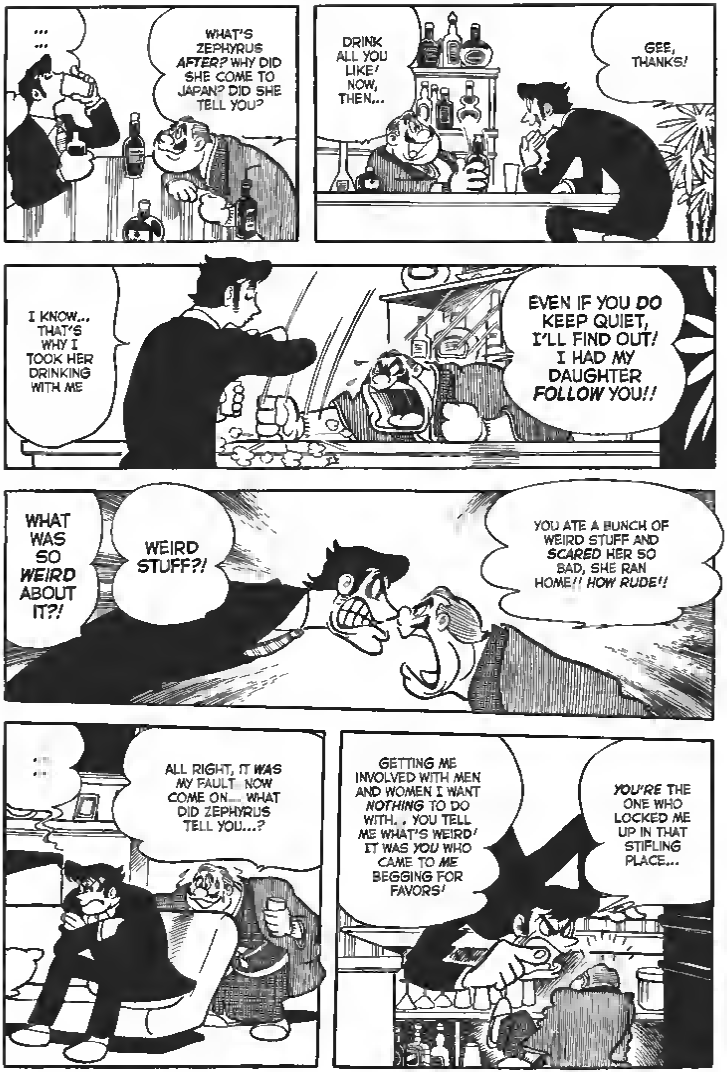
DEVELOPMENT (PART I)

HAAKCHOOO!!
HAA-
CHOOO!!
37.6
DEGREES
..
HUHN
..!

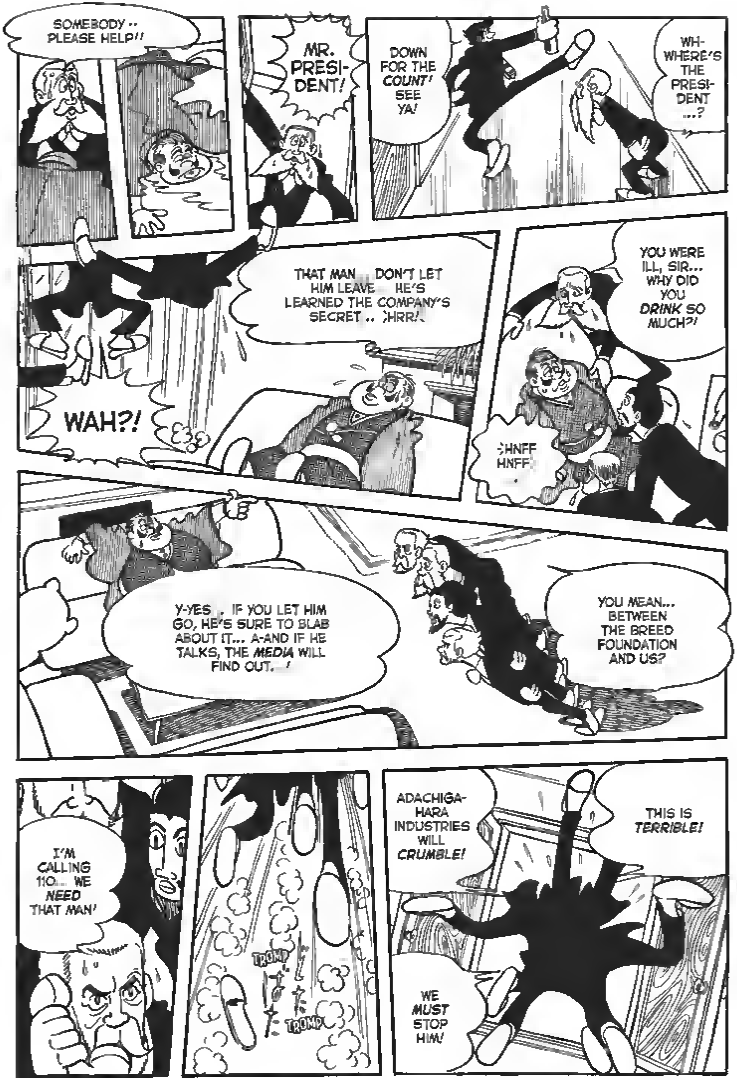
IT ISN'T FAIR THAT YOU SHOULD CATCH A COLD BECAUSE OF HIM, SIR.
ACHOO!!
EVERY TIME MR BREED SNEEZES ...
MR. BREED SNEEZED AGAIN?
MY COLD WASN'T CAUSED BY BREED'S SNEEZES!!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MR. BREED SNEEZED THIRTY TIMES IN A ROW RECENTLY, AND HERE YOU HAVE A FEVER OF NEAR FORTY DEGREES...!
HMM... SNOW HIM TO THE PARLOR!!
SEKI.. ?
SIR, A YOUNG MAN BY THE NAME OF SEKI IS AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE
THAT FOOL !
NO, I'LL SEE HIM NOW
YOU'RE ILL, SIR! HAVE HIM COME BACK ANOTHER DAY...!
THE SON OF AN ACQUAINTANCE, I . I WAS ASKED TO FIND HIM SOME WORK!
WHO IS THIS MAN?

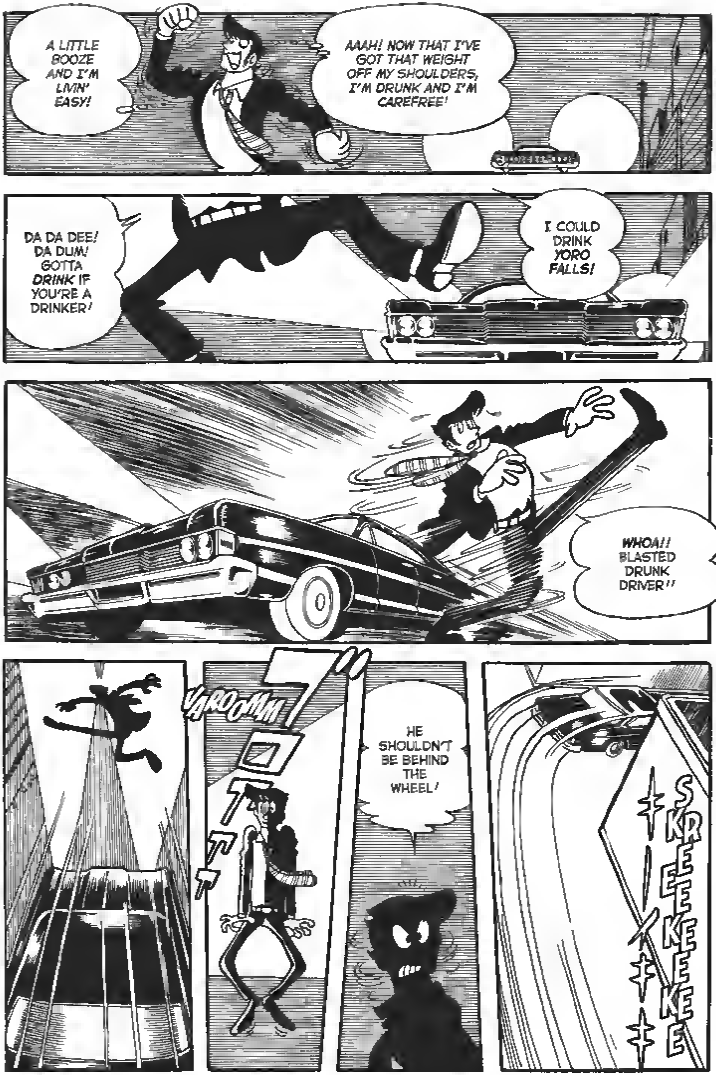

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! IT'LL LOOK SUSPI-CIOUS!
I WANT OUT OF THE DETECTIVE BUSINESS, MR. ADACHI-GAHARA!
OUT, YOU SAY? WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT ZEPHY-RUS?
NOTH-ING

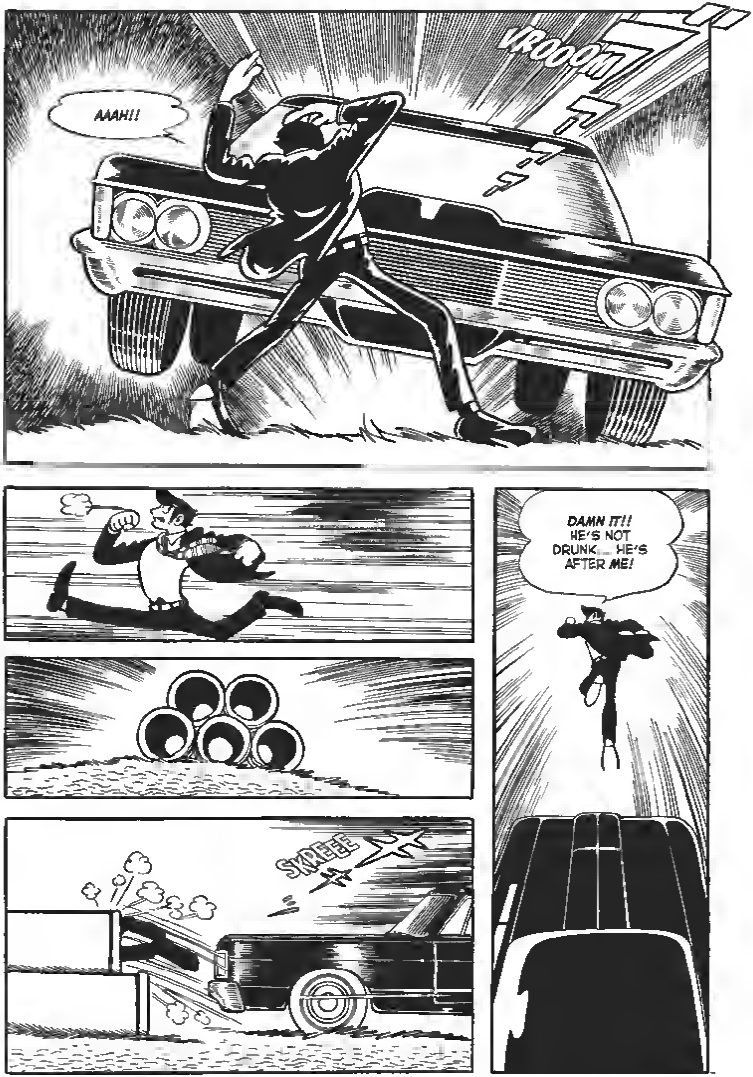
I'M JUST... TIRED OF IT.
THEN WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO QUIT?!
N-NO... NOT REALLY...
DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU ANYTHING?
I TOLD YOU... IT'S BETTER IF I DON'T SAY! STOP ASKING!
FED UP WITH WHAT?!
IT'S BETTER IF I DON'T -- I'M FED UP WITH IT!
TIRED OF IT? DID YOU REALLY FIND NOTHING OUT...? ZEPHYRUS TOLD YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT, DIDN'T SHE? WHAT WAS IT? TELL ME!
W-WAIT A MINUTE!!
FORGET THE 300,000 YEN REWARD... WELL, BE SEEIN' YA...
COULD IT BE... HE KNOWS ABOUT THE BREED FOUNDATION CUTTING OFF ITS TIES WITH US...?
LIQUOR?
LOOK, JUST WAIT, I SAID! WON'T YOU STICK AROUND FOR A SCOTCH, OR SOMETHING?
I'M NOT HUNGRY.
HOW ABOUT... JOINING ME FOR DINNER TONIGHT, HUH?

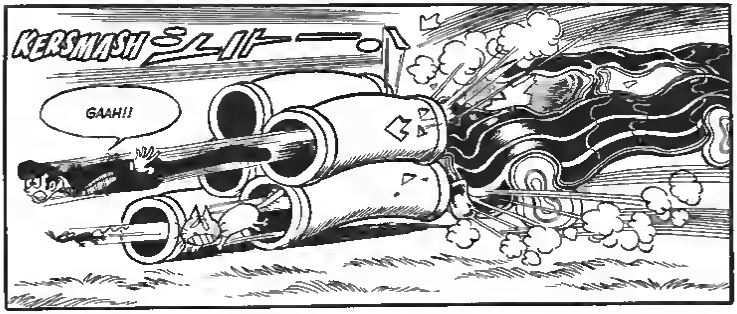

...
...
WHAT'S ZEPHYRUS *AFTER?* WHY DID SHE COME TO JAPAN? DID SHE TELL YOU?
DRINK ALL YOU LIKE! NOW, THEN...
GEE, THANKS!
I KNOW... THAT'S WHY I TOOK HER DRINKING WITH ME
EVEN IF YOU *DO* KEEP QUIET, I'LL FIND OUT! I HAD MY DAUGHTER *FOLLOW* YOU!!
WHAT WAS SO *WEIRD* ABOUT IT?!
WEIRD STUFF?!
YOU ATE A BUNCH OF WEIRD STUFF AND *SCARED* HER SO BAD, SHE RAN HOME!! *HOW RUDE!*
...
ALL RIGHT, IT *WAS* MY FAULT. NOW COME ON... WHAT DID ZEPHYRUS TELL YOU...?
GETTING ME INVOLVED WITH MEN AND WOMEN I WANT *NOTHING* TO DO WITH... YOU TELL *ME* WHAT'S WEIRD! IT WAS *YOU* WHO CAME TO *ME* BEGGING FOR FAVORS!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LOCKED ME UP IN THAT STIFLING PLACE...

A CON ARTIST? WHAT DID SHE DO?
THE WOMAN'S A CON ARTIST!
BEST FOR ME?
IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF YOU AVOID HER TOO, MR ADACHIGAHARA.
WHAT'S SO AWFUL ABOUT HER?
LISTEN. . THAT ZEPHYRUS IS AN AWFUL WOMAN!
SHE'S A HUSSY! A TEASING, CHEATING WHORE!
ZEPHYRUS .. SHE'S AN ANGEL ... YOU GOT A PROBLEM WI' HER?! HIC!
SHEESH! FORGET ALL O' THAT STUFF! WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT ZEPHYRUS?
COME ON, YOU DUMB SON OF A BITCH!! I KNOW SHE TOL'JA ALL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MY COMPANY AND THE BREED FOUNDATION, DIDN'T SHE?
SPIT WHAT OUT?
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!! GET A HOLD O' YOURSELF AN' JUS' SPIT IT OUT!!
I GUESS HE'S THE ONE SPITTIN' IT OUT!
BLEARRG! GLARG! BLARG! BLEARG!

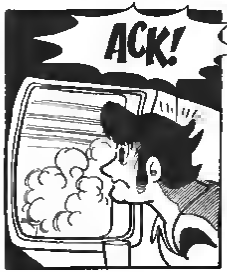

SOMEBODY.. PLEASE HELP!!
MR. PRESI-DENT!
DOWN FOR THE COUNT! SEE YA!
WH-WHERE'S THE PRESI-DENT ...?
WAH?!
THAT MAN... DON'T LET HIM LEAVE... HE'S LEARNED THE COMPANY'S SECRET.. GHRR!
YOU WERE ILL, SIR... WHY DID YOU DRINK SO MUCH?!
GHNFF HNFF
Y-YES... IF YOU LET HIM GO, HE'S SURE TO BLAB ABOUT IT... A-AND IF HE TALKS, THE MEDIA WILL FIND OUT...!
YOU MEAN... BETWEEN THE BREED FOUNDATION AND US?
I'M CALLING 110... WE NEED THAT MAN!
TRONK
TRONK
ADACHIGA-HARA INDUSTRIES WILL CRUMBLE!
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
WE MUST STOP HIM!


A LITTLE BOOZE AND I'M LIVIN' EASY!
AAAH! NOW THAT I'VE GOT THAT WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS, I'M DRUNK AND I'M CAREFREE!
DA DA DEE! DA DUM! GOTTA DRINK IF YOU'RE A DRINKER!
I COULD DRINK YORO FALLS!
WHOA!! BLASTED DRUNK DRIVER!!
VAROOMM!
HE SHOULDN'T BE BEHIND THE WHEEL!
SKREEEKEEKEE


AAAH!!
VROOOM
DAMN IT!! HE'S NOT DRUNK... HE'S AFTER ME!
SKREEE

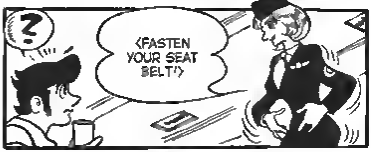

KERSMASH シュパーーー。
GAAH!!

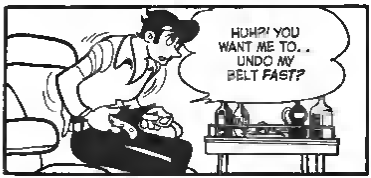
〈GOOD MORNING, SIR!〉

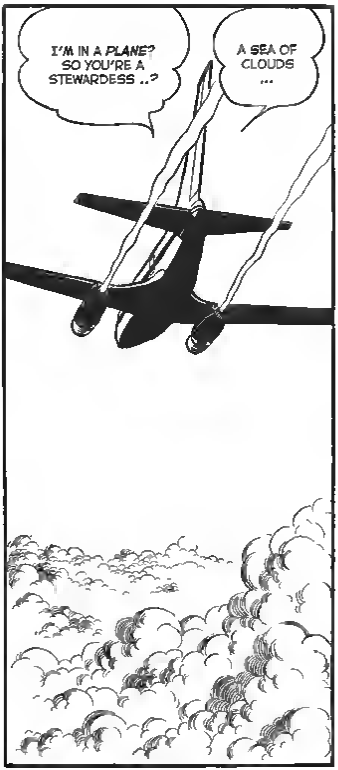

ACK!

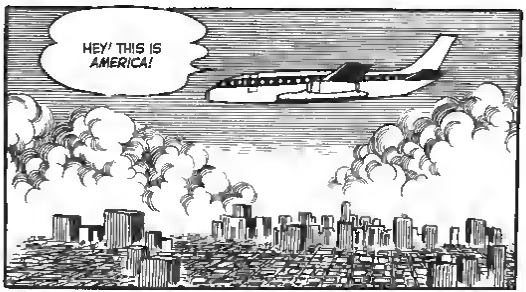
AHHH! THAT'S GOOD..!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE. . MUSTA COST SOMEONE A LOTTA DOUGH, HUH?
BOY, THIS IS SWELL!
WHO WOULD PAY FOR SERVICE LIKE THIS?!

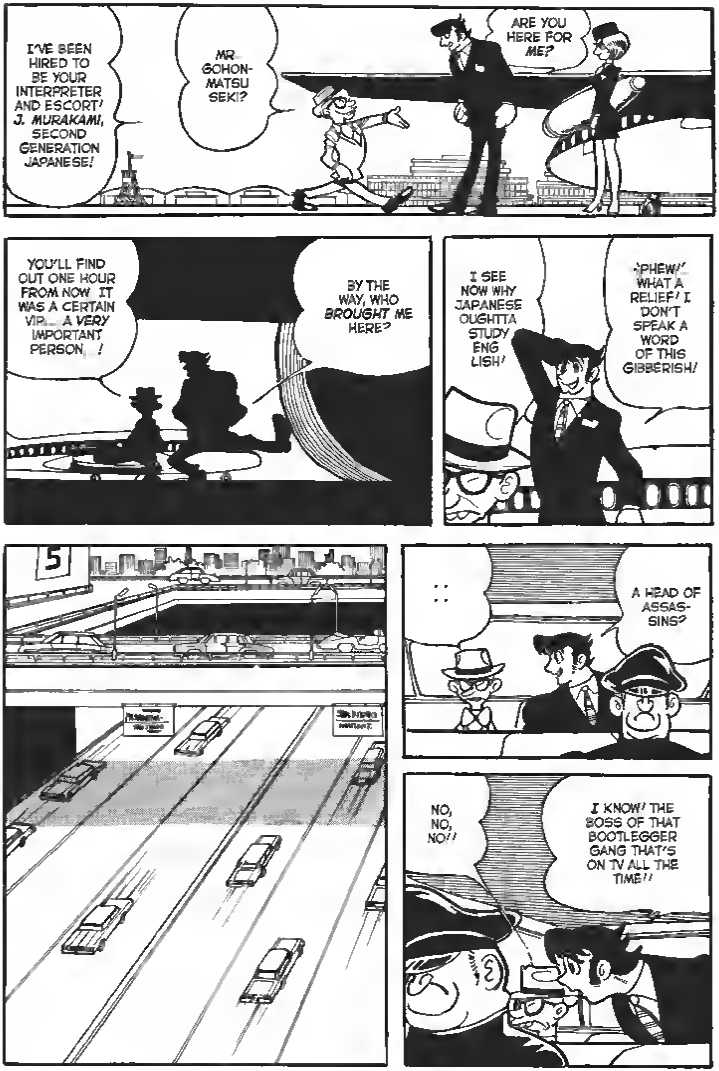

?
<FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT!>

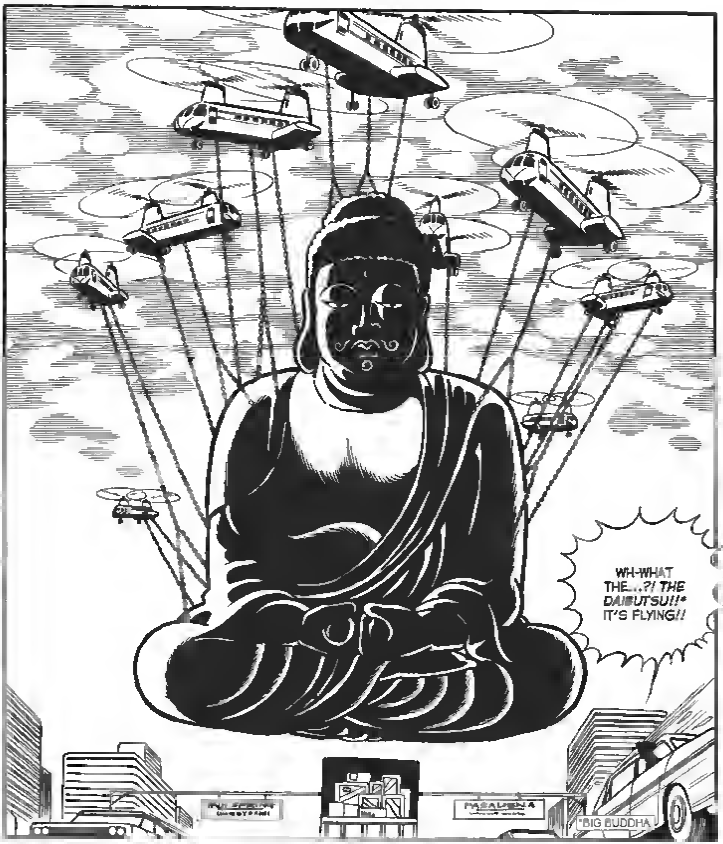

HUH?! YOU WANT ME TO. . UNDO MY BELT FAST?

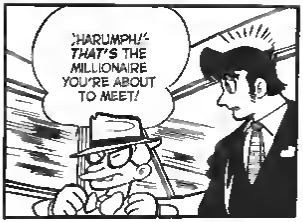

I'M IN A PLANE? SO YOU'RE A STEWARDESS ..?
A SEA OF CLOUDS ...

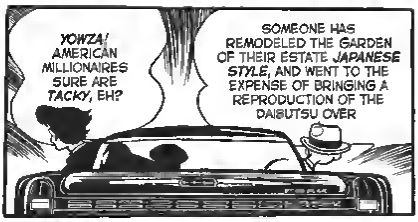

HEY! THIS IS AMERICA!

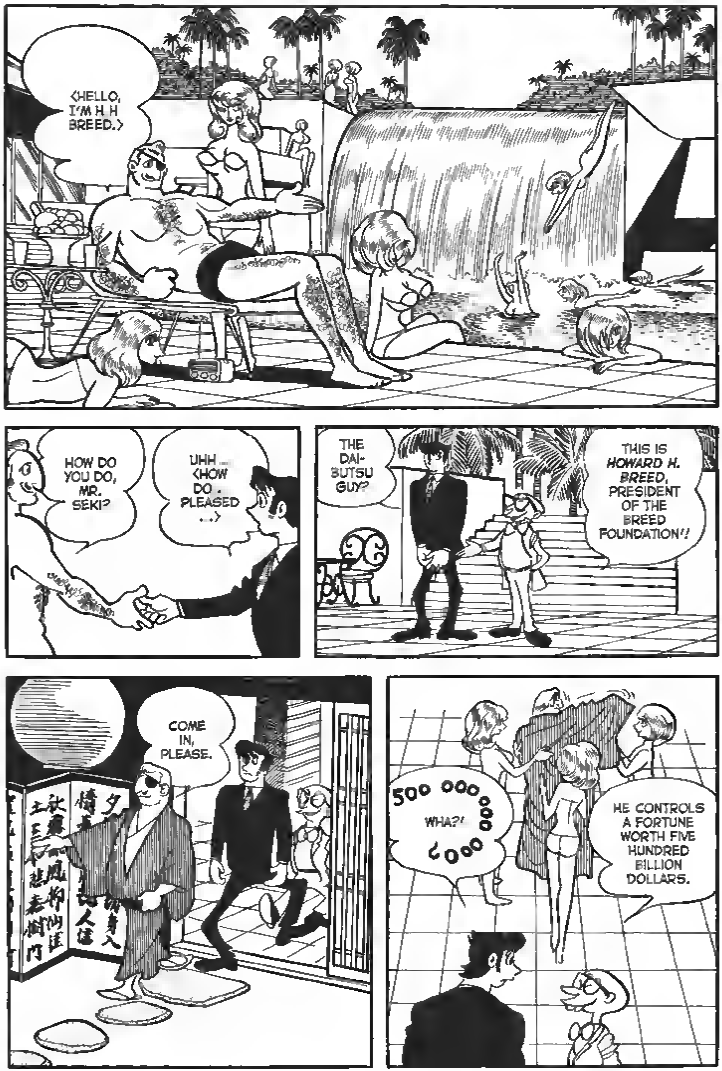
NO!!
<NO!! NO!! YOUR SEAT BELT!!>


I'VE BEEN HIRED TO BE YOUR INTERPRETER AND ESCORT! J. MURAKAMI, SECOND GENERATION JAPANESE!
MR GOHON-MATSU SEKI?
ARE YOU HERE FOR ME?
YOU'LL FIND OUT ONE HOUR FROM NOW IT WAS A CERTAIN VIP... A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON...!
BY THE WAY, WHO BROUGHT ME HERE?
I SEE NOW WHY JAPANESE OUGHTTA STUDY ENG LISH!
"PHEW!" WHAT A RELIEF! I DON'T SPEAK A WORD OF THIS GIBBERISH!
5
A HEAD OF ASSAS-SINS?
NO, NO, NO!!
I KNOW! THE BOSS OF THAT BOOTLEGGER GANG THAT'S ON TV ALL THE TIME!!

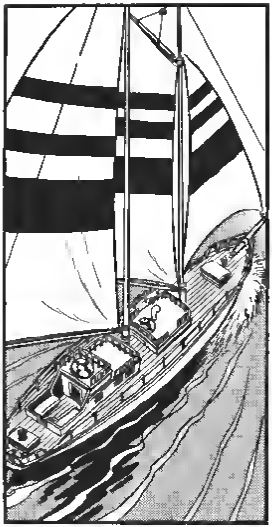

WH-WHAT THE...?! THE DAIBUTSU!!* IT'S FLYING!!
*BIG BUDDHA

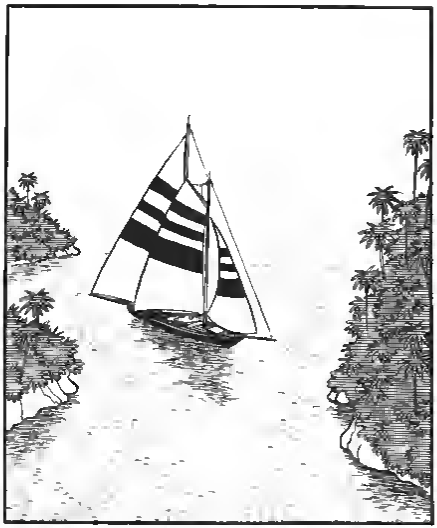

"HARUMPH!" THAT'S THE MILLIONAIRE YOU'RE ABOUT TO MEET!


YOWZA! AMERICAN MILLIONAIRES SURE ARE TACKY, EH?
SOMEONE HAS REMODELED THE GARDEN OF THEIR ESTATE JAPANESE STYLE, AND WENT TO THE EXPENSE OF BRINGING A REPRODUCTION OF THE DAIBUTSU OVER

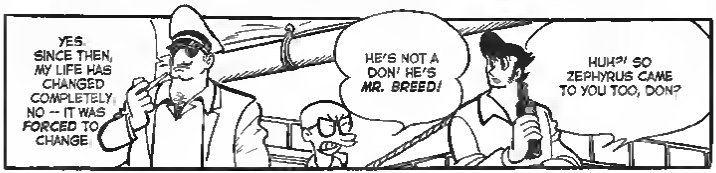

〈HELLO, I'M H. H. BREED.〉
HOW DO YOU DO, MR. SEKI?
UHH... 〈HOW DO. PLEASED...〉
THE DAI-BUTSU GUY?
THIS IS *HOWARD H. BREED*, PRESIDENT OF THE BREED FOUNDATION!!
COME IN, PLEASE.
500 000 000
WHA?!
HE CONTROLS A FORTUNE WORTH FIVE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS.

WELL, I HEARD INTERESTING *REPORTS* FROM MY TOKYO ENVOYS ABOUT YOUR DEALINGS WITH ZEPHYRUS.
HE'S NOT A DON!! PLEASE CALL HIM *MR.* BREED!
SO WHY'D YOU BRING ME HERE, DON BREED?
HILARIOUS!! YOU REALLY ARE AN INTERESTING FELLOW!!
HA! HA! HA! WAH HAHAHA!
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...
LISTEN, DON... I'M TELLIN' YA, ME AND ZEPHYRUS HAVE GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH EACH OTHER.. SHE'S JUST A BIG *PAIN IN MY NECK!!*
OH, NO.. NOT *HERE*, TOO!
TO THE *ONE* MAN IN THE WORLD... WHO MET ZEPHYRUS.. AND DIDN'T SHOW THE *SLIGHTEST* INTEREST IN HER!!
?
I DON'T FIND IT A *BIT* FUNNY! WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW IS A DRINK!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU *LAUGHING* ABOUT?
WE'LL DRINK A TOAST!
GOOD !!



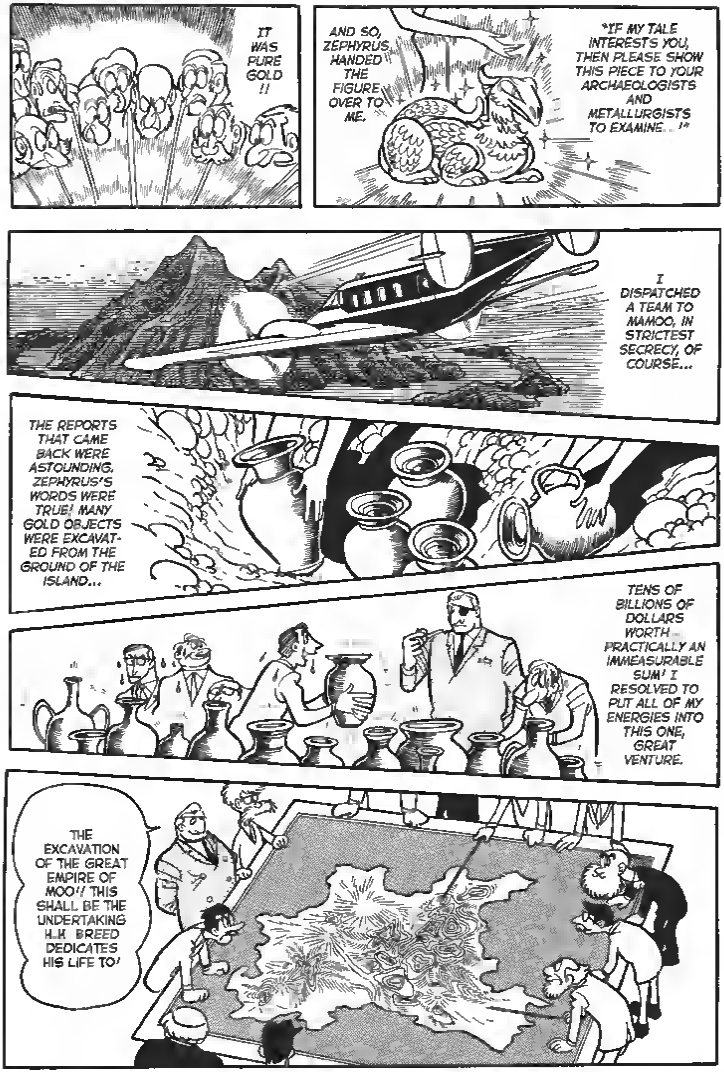


YOUNG GOHONMATSU, THE TRUTH IS. . . I, TOO, AM ONE OF ZEPHYRUS'S PATHETIC *SLAVES.*

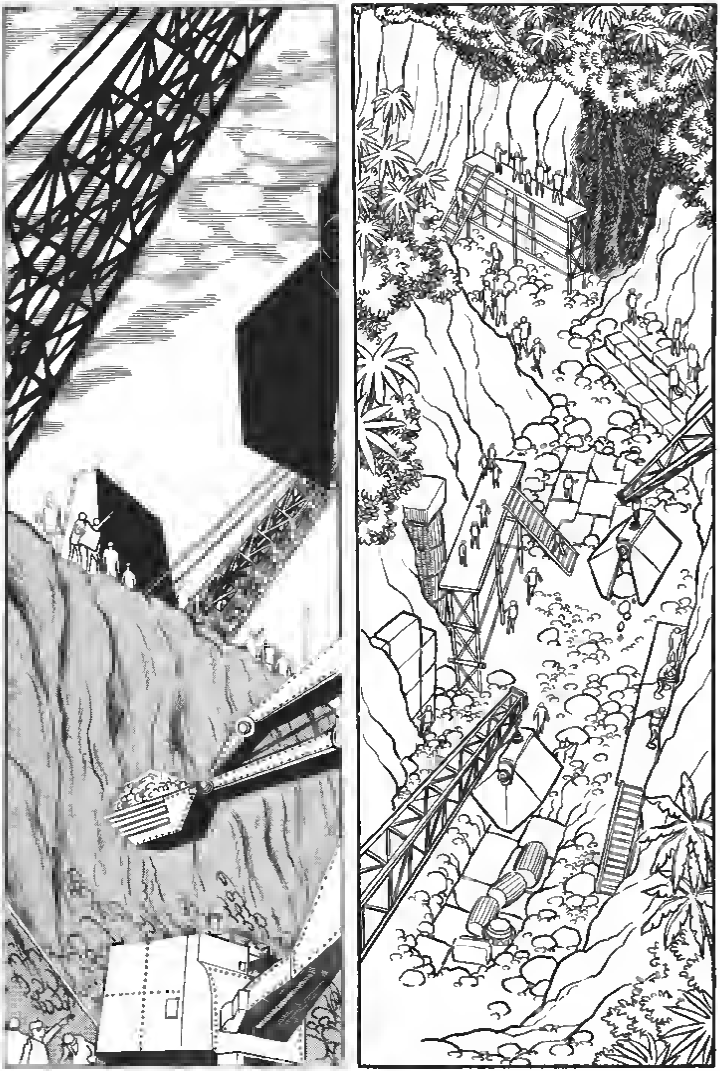

YES. SINCE THEN, *MY* LIFE HAS CHANGED COMPLETELY. NO -- IT WAS *FORCED* TO CHANGE.
HE'S NOT A DON! HE'S *MR. BREED!*
HUH?! SO ZEPHYRUS CAME TO YOU TOO, DON?

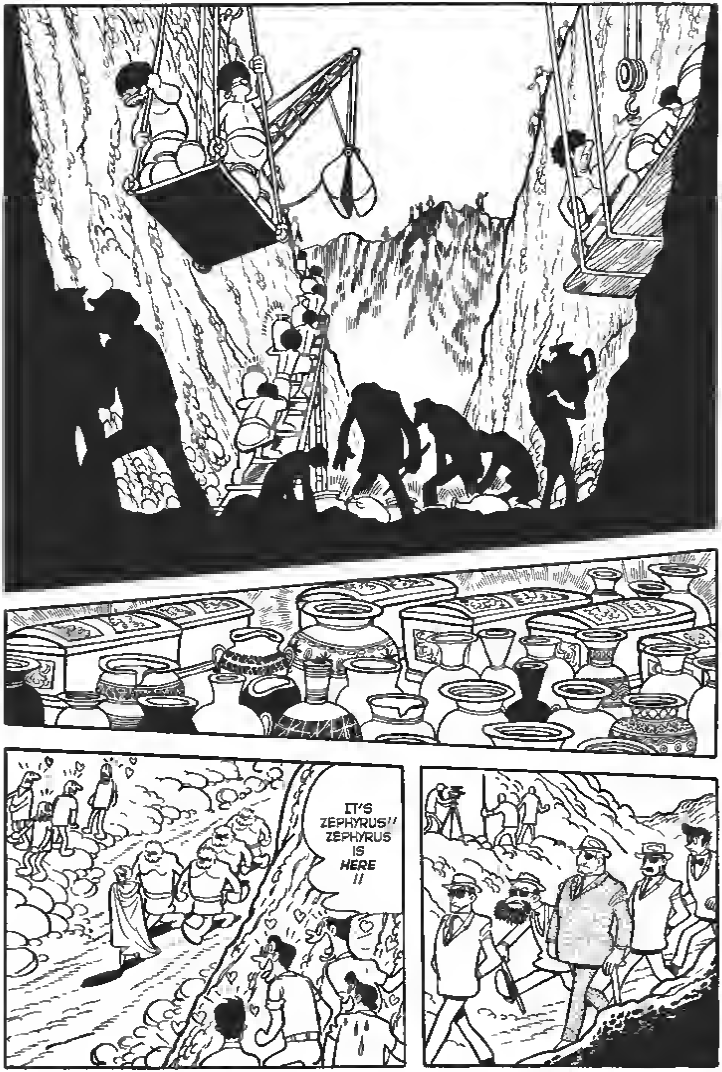
I BECAME *MAD* FOR ZEPHYRUS -- A WOMAN WHOSE ORIGINS I DON'T EVEN KNOW!!
IN THE PAST, GOHONMATSU, I WAS A MAN WHO HAD ANY ONE OF A *HUNDRED* HOLLYWOOD BEAUTIES WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER! WITH MY MONEY, I EVEN HAD DEMOSTHENIYA, THE PRINCESS OF IRAQ! AND YET . .

THAT WOMAN'S BEAUTY IS UNCANNY! IT'S MORE THAN HUMAN SOMEHOW. .
INDEED, ALMOST DESIGNED TO DELIBERATELY EMPHASIZE HER CHARMS...
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S AS THOUGH IT WERE MAN-MADE! LIKE BEING CAPTIVATED BY THE WORKS OF MICHELANGELO OR THE VENUS DE MILO. HER BEAUTY MAKES PRISONERS OF MEN'S HEARTS!
ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, SHE CAME TO ME WITH THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY STORY.....
WHAT DID ZEPHYRUS COME TO SEE YOU FOR, DON?
AS PROOF .. I HAVE BROUGHT YOU AN EXAMPLE FROM MY PALACE, PASSED DOWN FROM OUR ANCESTORS
A LEGEND SAYS THAT WHEN THE MOO EMPIRE PERISHED, ITS COUNTLESS GOLD RELICS WERE HIDDEN DEEP UNDERGROUND ON OUR ISLAND.
LONG AGO, OUR NATION OF MAMOO WAS FOUNDED BY DESCENDENTS OF THE GREAT MOO EMPIRE


IT WAS PURE GOLD !!
AND SO, ZEPHYRUS HANDED THE FIGURE OVER TO ME.
"IF MY TALE INTERESTS YOU, THEN PLEASE SHOW THIS PIECE TO YOUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND METALLURGISTS TO EXAMINE..!"
I DISPATCHED A TEAM TO MAMOO, IN STRICTEST SECRECY, OF COURSE...
THE REPORTS THAT CAME BACK WERE ASTOUNDING. ZEPHYRUS'S WORDS WERE TRUE! MANY GOLD OBJECTS WERE EXCAVATED FROM THE GROUND OF THE ISLAND...
TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH... PRACTICALLY AN IMMEASURABLE SUM! I RESOLVED TO PUT ALL OF MY ENERGIES INTO THIS ONE, GREAT VENTURE.
THE EXCAVATION OF THE GREAT EMPIRE OF MOO!! THIS SHALL BE THE UNDERTAKING H.H. BREED DEDICATES HIS LIFE TO!

FOR ME, IT'S NOT ABOUT VANITY. IT'S ABOUT USING THE REVENUE TO DEVELOP NEW ENTER-PRISES.
I OWN FIVE RAILROADS, THIRTEEN AIRLINES, SEVEN BANKS, AND HALF OF MIAMI, AMONG OTHER THINGS.
MY PASSION IS DOING WHAT OTHERS CAN'T, YOU SEE? IN MY YOUTH, THEY USED TO CALL ME BREED THE BRAGGART!
SO, IT'S LIKE A HOBBY FOR RICH PEOPLE?
HAATCHOOO!
IT'S MY PURPOSE IN LIFE!
HOW ABOUT YOU, GOHONMATSU ...? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR ME?
I'LL SHOW THE WORLD WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO FEEL A CHILL!!
BUT WITH THIS VEN-TURE..
WHEN I SNEEZE, FIFTY OR SIXTY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD CATCH COLD!!
I LIKE YOU, SON!!
HAH HAH!
WHAT NO MAN IN THE WORLD CAN DO.. YOU'VE SEEN RIGHT THROUGH ZEPHYRUS!
BECAUSE YOU'VE DONE WHAT I COULDN'T
WHY AM I SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?




IT'S ZEPHYRUS!! ZEPHYRUS IS *HERE* !!

WELCOME TO MAHOO, MR. BREED...
SIX O'CLOCK, THEN!! I'LL SEND AN ESCORT!
YES... WITH PLEASURE
A *BANQUET* SHALL BE HELD AT THE PALACE TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE YOUR ARRIVAL... WILL YOU JOIN US?
NOPE... NOTHING AT ALL.
YOU FEEL *NOTHING* WHEN YOU SEE HER?
SEE WHAT THAT WOMAN *DOES* TO ME!! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE GREAT H.H BREED!!
LOOK AT MY FACE, GOHON-MATSU
...
...
YOU GOT IT, DON!
RATHER, I WANT YOU TO *RESCUE ME* IF THAT WOMAN MAKES ME LOSE MY SENSE OF REASON!!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REMAIN COMPOSED AROUND NER, GOHON-MATSU I WANT YOU *WITH ME* TONIGHT...
THIS ZEPHYRUS SEEMS *DIFFERENT* THAN THE ONE I MET IN TOKYO...
THERE'S SOME-THING STRANGE ...

CHAPTER 8

DEVELOPMENT (PART II)

MR. BREED, PLEASE RELAX THIS EVENING AND THINK OF MY HOME, HUMBLE THOUGH IT MAY BE, AS YOUR OWN...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM HOSPITALITY.
WOULD YOU *LIKE* SOME ?
?
OUR COUNTRY'S OWN WINE, SIR...
UH-OH! AY-YI-YI! THE GUEST OF HONOR IS *GONE!*
BOY! THIS LOCAL STUFF IS GREAT!
HMM... I DON'T GET IT. SHE SURE SEEMS *DIFFERENT* THAN WHEN I MET HER BEFORE...
GLUG
GLUG

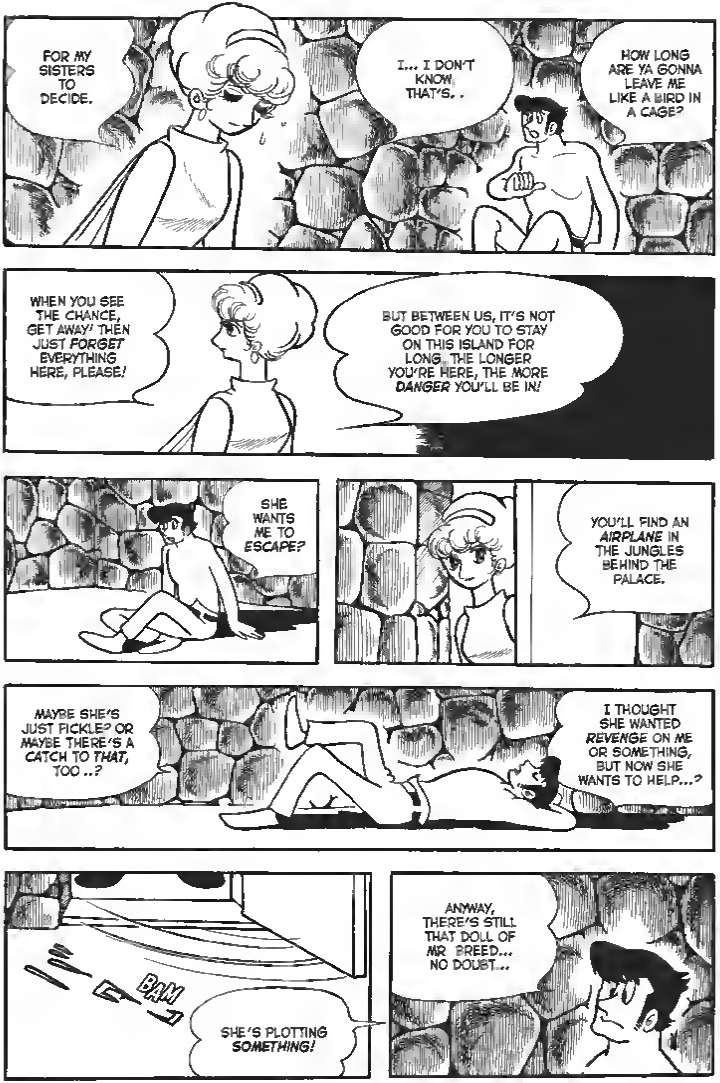
THAT WOMAN'S UP TO SOMETHING!
AND ZEPHYRUS HAS VANISHED WITH HIM!
GANGWAY!!
HEY, BREED!! HUFF! HUFF! SO HOT! DON'T NEED TO WEAR ALL THIS STUFF!
HUFF! HUFF! MR. BREED! HE'S BEEN ABDUCTED,
GAAH! THIS PALACE IS HUGE! WHERE ARE THEY?!
THIS IS BAD! THE DON'S IN TROUBLE!

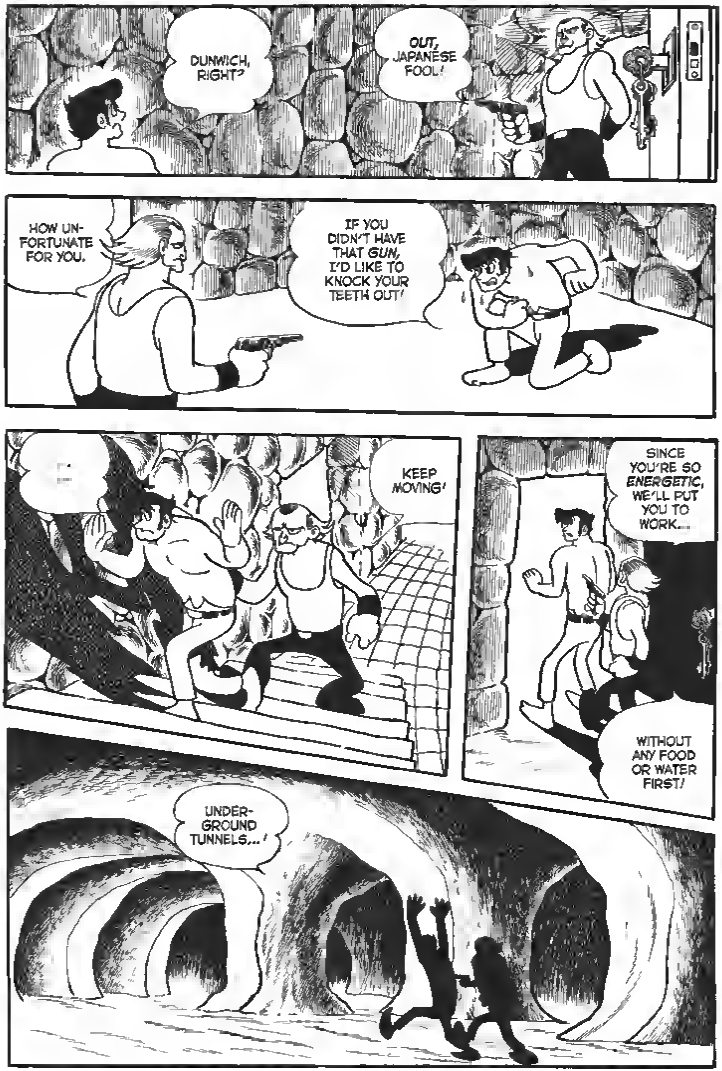
BREED -- WAH!!
CHIEF BREED!!
DON BREED!
OLD MAN!!
AWW... DAMN IT!!
OF COURSE! SHE DRUGGED YOU WITH LSD, OR SOMETHING... I KNEW IT!
HEH... HEH... HEH. HEH!
MR. BREED! WH-WHAT HAPPENED?! HOW'D YOU END UP LIKE THIS...?
HEH... HEH... HEH HEH. HEH HEH.
SHWAKK
ACK!!
SHFF
SHFF

YOU HIRED MONKEYS!
OOF!
GMPFF!!
YEE ARGH!!
AH!
AAAH! MR. BREED'S SHRIVELED UP...!
??
CONK
CONK

YES IT WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE MR. BREED
SOME KINDA RAG DOLL, ?
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM!
WHAT.. IS THIS THING..?!
SO THEY LOOKED LIKE MR BREED ..!
OH, I GET IT! YOU PUT THIS ON SOMEONE ELSE!
NOT BAD FOR A FOOL!
MY NAME IS DUNWICH.
WHO ARE YOU?!
DUN-WICH?
POP OUT TO START GIVIN' EXPLANATIONS?
THEN WHY. .
YOU THINK I'M HERE TO EXPLAIN?
IT COULD GET IN THE WAY OF BUSI-NESS.
I'LL HAVE TO STOP THAT IMAGINA-TION, .
MISS ZEPHY-RUS'S ORDERS.
TURN AROUND!

HEY .. DON'T DO THINGS HALF-ASSED .. KILL ME, OR BRING ME SOMETHING TO EAT! BETTER YET — TO DRINK!
I WON'T CARE IF THERE'S BOOZE! MOONSHINE OR THAT LOCAL STUFF... WHATEVER!
ZEPHYRUS! THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING!
PRETTY LOUSY PLAN FOR REVENGE ..
A MAN LIKE YOU. .
IS VERY RARE .. YOU'RE LIKE SOME REMNANT FROM A PAST CENTURY ...
MY SISTERS WISH TO KILL YOU. .
. .BUT I CAN'T DO IT.. IT'S
MY WEAK-NESS.
WHERE'S MR BREED?
RETURNED TO HIS RESIDENCE UNHARMED EVEN TODAY, HE SURVEYS THE EXCAVATION..
BUT THE MAN IS ENTIRELY OUR PUPPET!
ABSURD AND MAD AND WONDERFUL IN A WAY.
NO DESIRE FOR WOMEN OR MONEY .. ONLY ALCOHOL. YOU ARE. .


FOR MY SISTERS TO DECIDE.
I... I DON'T KNOW THAT'S. .
HOW LONG ARE YA GONNA LEAVE ME LIKE A BIRD IN A CAGE?
WHEN YOU SEE THE CHANCE, GET AWAY! THEN JUST FORGET EVERYTHING HERE, PLEASE!
BUT BETWEEN US, IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO STAY ON THIS ISLAND FOR LONG. THE LONGER YOU'RE HERE, THE MORE DANGER YOU'LL BE IN!
SHE WANTS ME TO ESCAPE?
YOU'LL FIND AN AIRPLANE IN THE JUNGLES BEHIND THE PALACE.
MAYBE SHE'S JUST FICKLE? OR MAYBE THERE'S A CATCH TO THAT, TOO ..?
I THOUGHT SHE WANTED REVENGE ON ME OR SOMETHING, BUT NOW SHE WANTS TO HELP...?
BAM
SHE'S PLOTTING SOMETHING!
ANYWAY, THERE'S STILL THAT DOLL OF MR BREED... NO DOUBT...


DUNWICH, RIGHT?
OUI, JAPANESE FOOL!
HOW UN-FORTUNATE FOR YOU.
IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT GUN, I'D LIKE TO KNOCK YOUR TEETH OUT!
KEEP MOVING!
SINCE YOU'RE SO ENERGETIC, WE'LL PUT YOU TO WORK...
WITHOUT ANY FOOD OR WATER FIRST!
UNDER-GROUND TUNNELS...!

YEARS AGO, A WOMAN NAMED CHRITOS CAME TO LIVE ON THIS ISLAND. SHE DISCOVERED THESE *RUINS*... THEN IT JUST KEPT COMING...

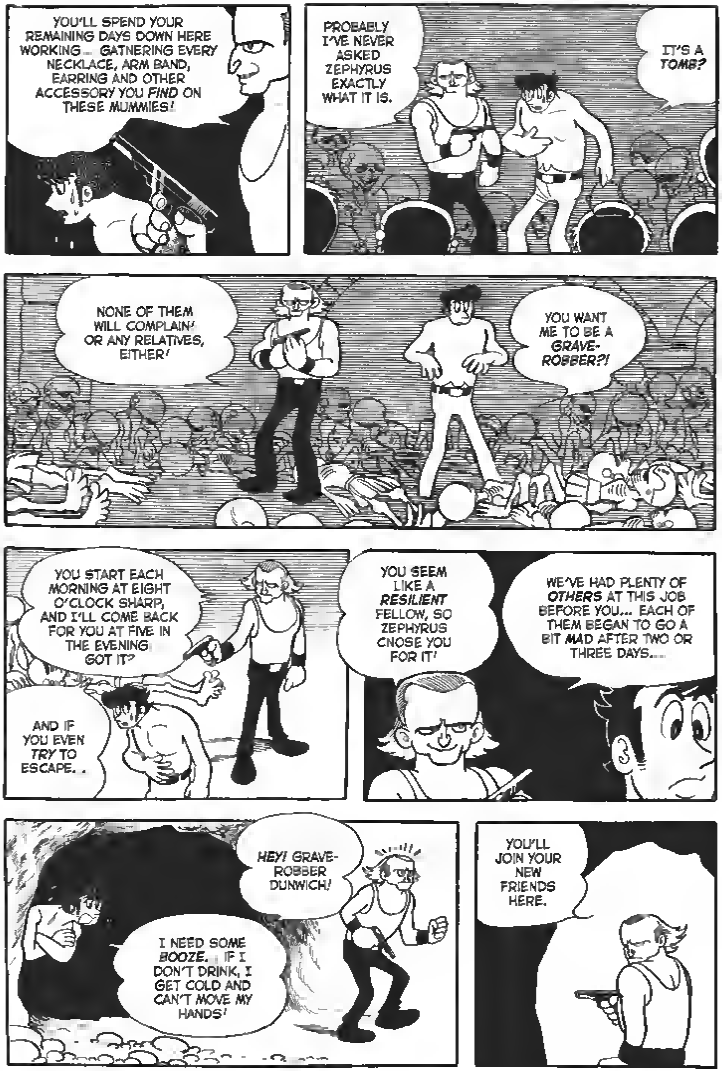
THIS UNPOLLUTED AIR IS QUITE HEALTHY!
THE AIR TASTES BAD..

YOU'LL BE WORKING HERE — GET IN!

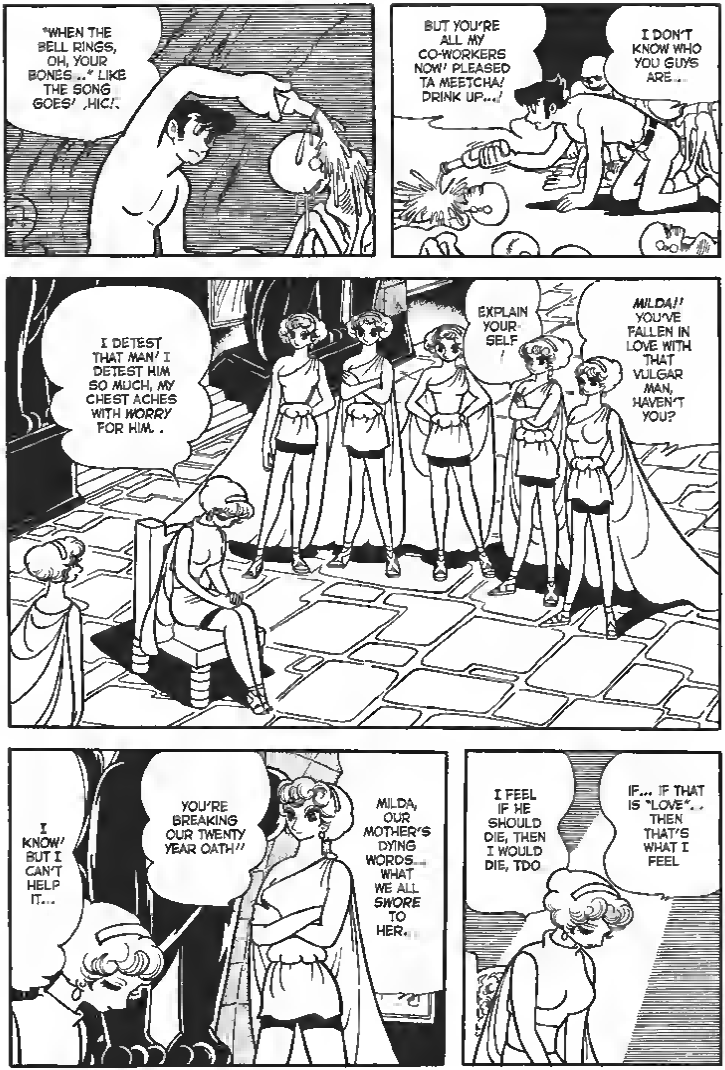
ACK!!

MUM-MIES!!

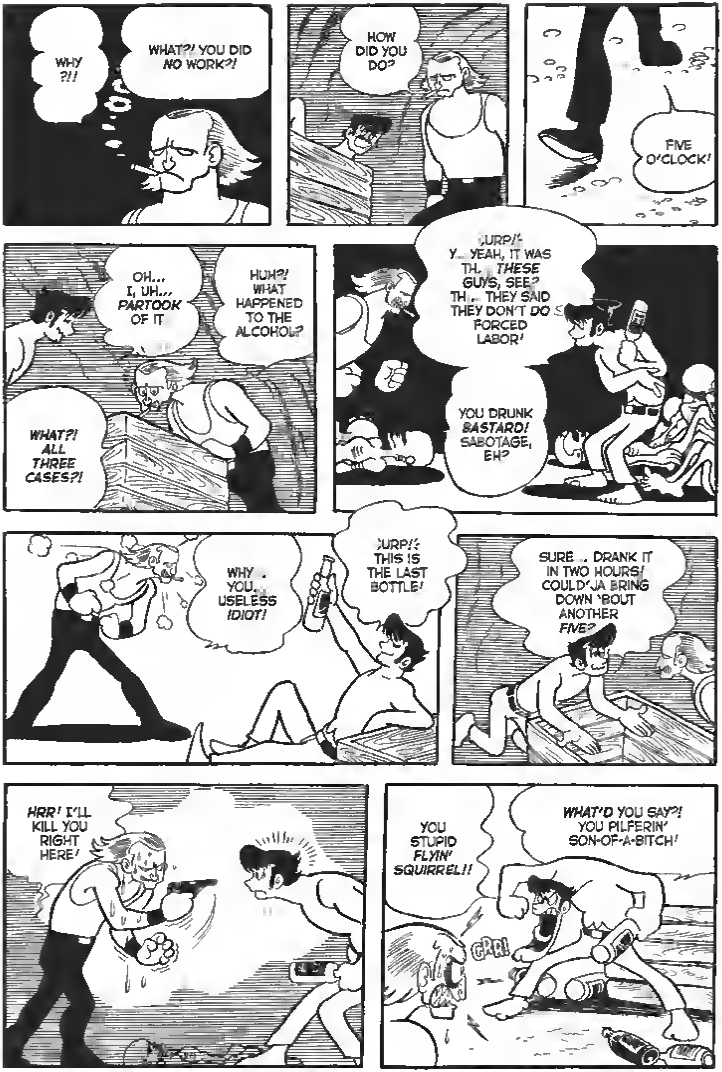
MORE GOLD THAN COULD BE DUG IN A LIFETIME!

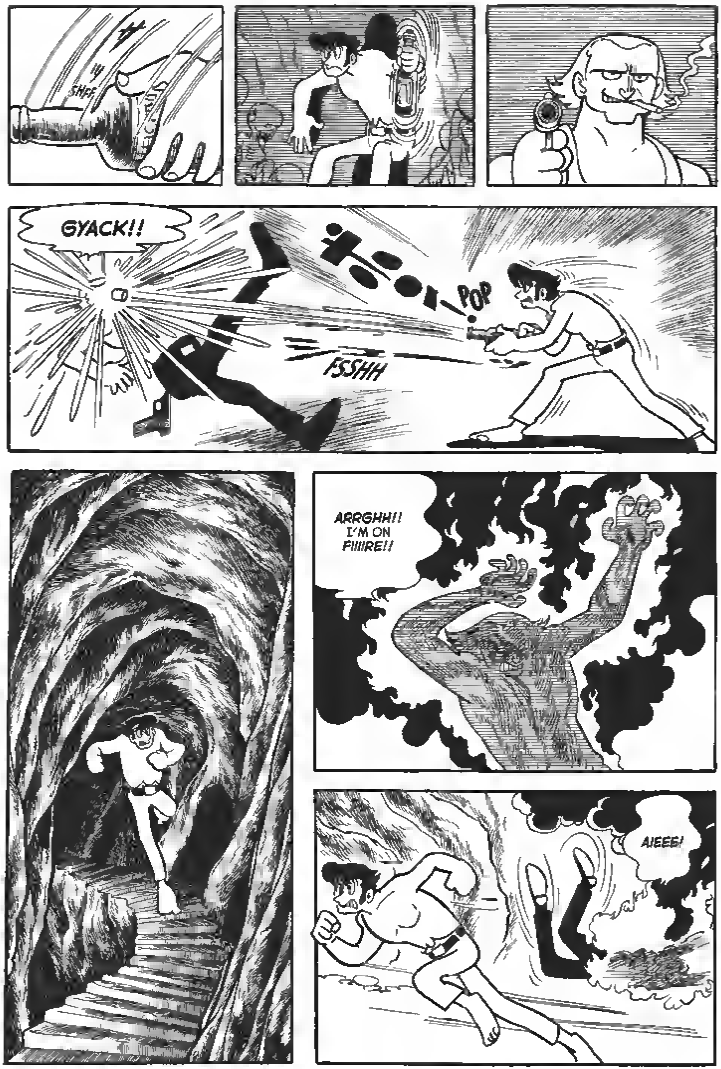

YOU'LL SPEND YOUR REMAINING DAYS DOWN HERE WORKING... GATNERING EVERY NECKLACE, ARM BAND, EARRING AND OTHER ACCESSORY YOU *FIND* ON THESE *MUMMIES!*
PROBABLY I'VE NEVER ASKED ZEPHYRUS EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.
IT'S A *TOMB?*
NONE OF THEM WILL COMPLAIN! OR ANY RELATIVES, EITHER!
YOU WANT ME TO BE A *GRAVE-ROBBER?!*
YOU START EACH MORNING AT EIGHT O'CLOCK SHARP, AND I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU AT FIVE IN THE EVENING! GOT IT?
AND IF YOU EVEN *TRY* TO ESCAPE. .
YOU SEEM LIKE A *RESILIENT* FELLOW, SO ZEPHYRUS CNOSE YOU FOR IT!
WE'VE HAD PLENTY OF *OTHERS* AT THIS JOB BEFORE YOU... EACH OF THEM BEGAN TO GO A BIT *MAD* AFTER TWO OR THREE DAYS....
HEY! GRAVE-ROBBER DUNWICH!
I NEED SOME *BOOZE.* . IF I DON'T DRINK, I GET COLD AND *CAN'T* MOVE MY HANDS!
YOU'LL JOIN YOUR NEW FRIENDS HERE.

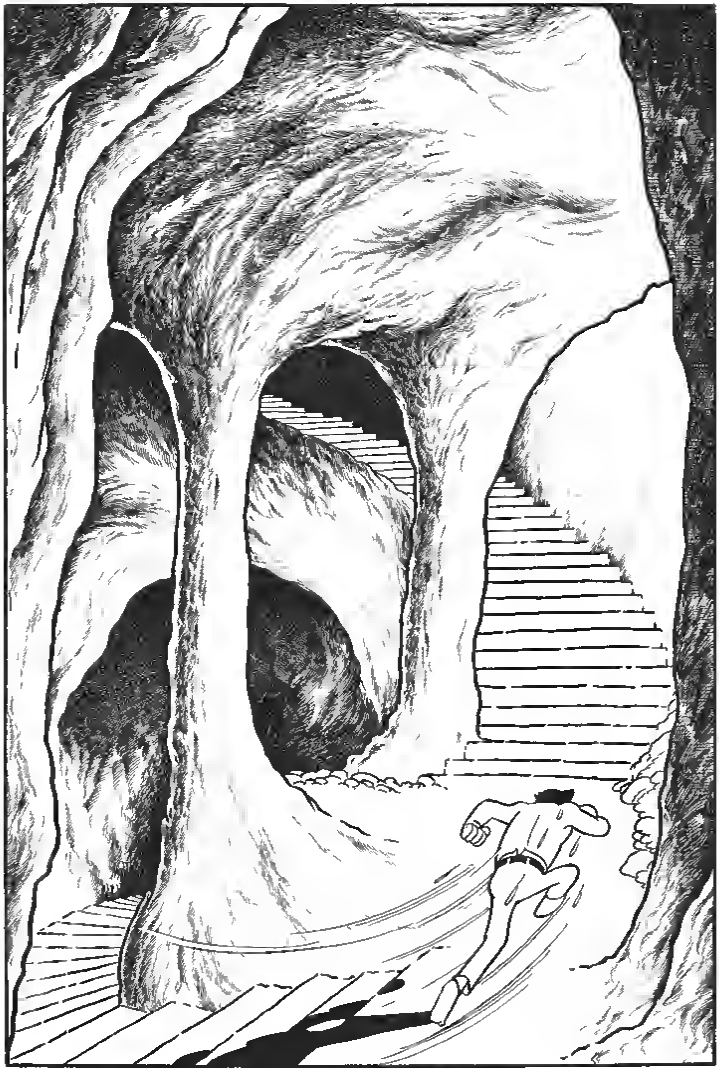
STEP カ
STEP カ
STEP カ
STEP カ
FEH! YOU'RE QUITE A DRUNKARD!
THERE'S LIQUOR IN THOSE BOXES
GLUG GLUG GLUG
SHEESH, I SURE MISS UNLOADING SHIPS ON THE WATERFRONT!
I'M FLUSH FROM HEAD-TO-TOE!
PHEW! CAN'T BEAT THAT...
HOW 'BOUT A DRINK, MR MUMMY?
KINDA TASTES LIKE LAOJIU*...
*CHINESE RICE WINE
WOW! THIS HAS A KICK LIKE CHAMPAGNE!
FSSHH
POP

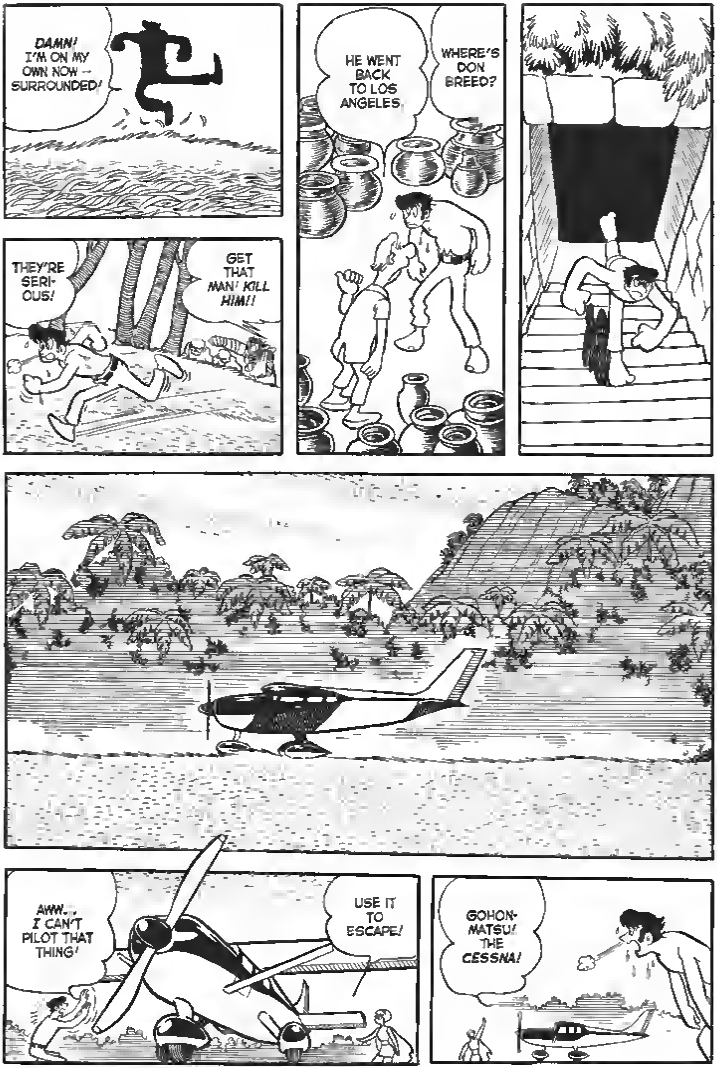

"WHEN THE BELL RINGS, OH, YOUR BONES..." LIKE THE SONG GOES! ,HIC!.
BUT YOU'RE ALL MY CO-WORKERS NOW! PLEASED TA MEETCHA! DRINK UP...!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU GUYS ARE...
I DETEST THAT MAN! I DETEST HIM SO MUCH, MY CHEST ACHES WITH WORRY FOR HIM. .
EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
MILDA!! YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THAT VULGAR MAN, HAVEN'T YOU?
I KNOW! BUT I CAN'T HELP IT...
YOU'RE BREAKING OUR TWENTY YEAR OATH!"
MILDA, OUR MOTHER'S DYING WORDS... WHAT WE ALL SWORE TO HER.
I FEEL IF HE SHOULD DIE, THEN I WOULD DIE, TOO
IF... IF THAT IS "LOVE"... THEN THAT'S WHAT I FEEL

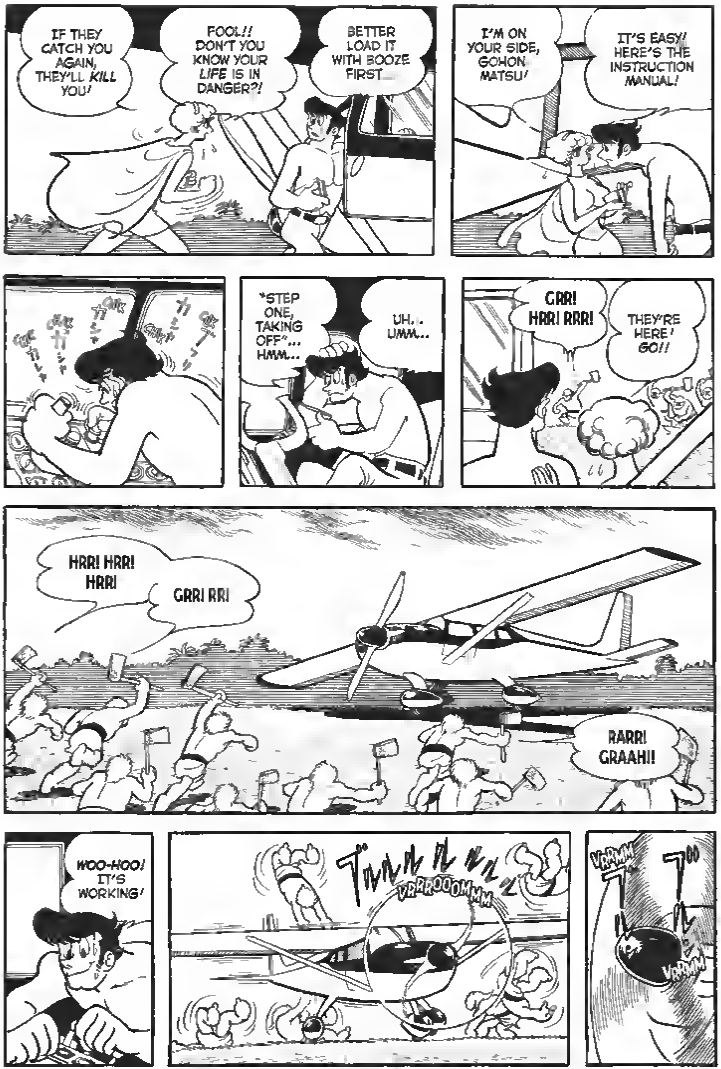
YOU LITTLE FOOL! HE'S NOTHING MORE THAN A DRUNKARD, WITH A HEAD OF WOOD! HE'S NOT SOMEONE WORTH FALLING IN LOVE WITH!!
WHY... WHY DID THAT MAN HAVE TO APPEAR IN MY LIFE...?
FORGET HIM!
LOOK IN MY EYES, MILDA!! CONTROL YOURSELF! DO NOT GO ASTRAY BEFORE WE HAVE OUR REVENGE!
YA-HA!!
ANYONE WHO DON'T DRINK WITH US WE'LL JUST SHOWER 'EM DOWN! WOO-HOO!
PEOPLE TRY TA COMPLAIN BOUT'CHA, BUT I AIN'T CHANGIN'! TO HELL WITH PREACHIN'! WOO!
IF THEY ASK WHY WE'RE SO WILD, WELL .. BLAST 'EM!
HE WILL DIE
IF IT'S SIX AGAINST ONE, THEN REGARD-LESS ..
NO! WHY WOULD I ACCEPT SUCH A VOTE?!
WE SHALL VOTE.. A VOTE MILDA MUST COMPLY WITH!
VERY WELL!
LET THE MAN LIVE? OR KILL HIM!
WHAT?!
WE WILL NOT ALLOW TRAITORS!
SILENCE!
I'LL.... HELP HIM ESCAPE!

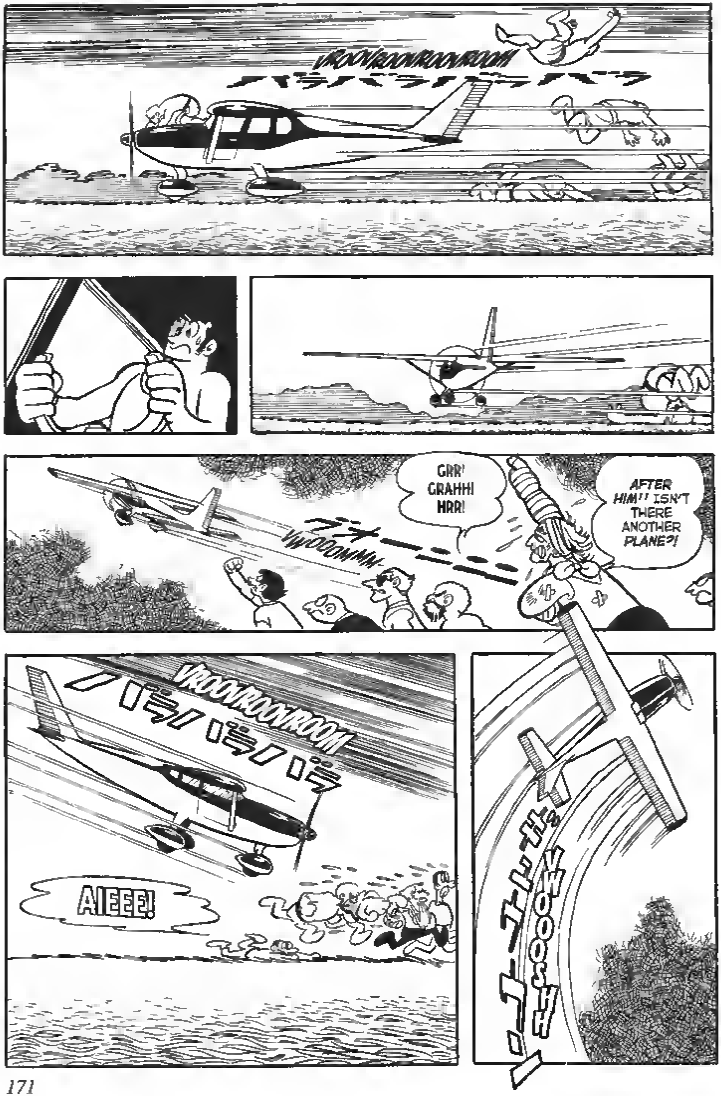

WHY ?!!
WHAT?! YOU DID NO WORK?!
HOW DID YOU DO?
FIVE O'CLOCK!
OH... I, UH... PARTOOK OF IT
HUH?! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ALCOHOL?
WHAT?! ALL THREE CASES?!
;URP!; Y... YEAH, IT WAS TH... THESE GUYS, SEE? TH... THEY SAID THEY DON'T DO FORCED LABOR!
YOU DRUNK BASTARD! SABOTAGE, EH?
WHY . YOU... USELESS IDIOT!
;URP!; THIS IS THE LAST BOTTLE!
SURE .. DRANK IT IN TWO HOURS! COULD'JA BRING DOWN 'BOUT ANOTHER FIVE?
HRR! I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT HERE!
YOU STUPID FLYIN' SQUIRREL!!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?! YOU PILFERIN' SON-OF-A-BITCH!
GRR!

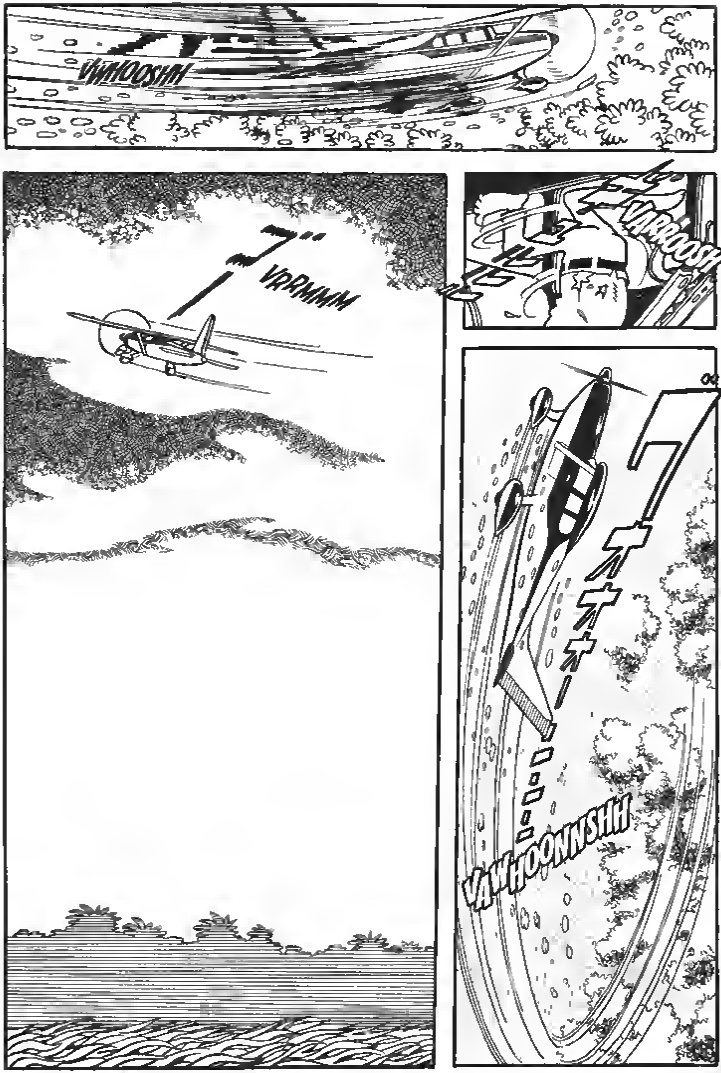

SHH
GYACK!!
POP
FSSHH
ARRGHH!! I'M ON FIIIIRE!!
AIEEE!




DAMN! I'M ON MY OWN NOW — SURROUNDED!
HE WENT BACK TO LOS ANGELES.
WHERE'S DON BREED?
THEY'RE SERIOUS!
GET THAT MAN! KILL HIM!!
AWW... I CAN'T PILOT THAT THING!
USE IT TO ESCAPE!
GOHONMATSU! THE CESSNA!

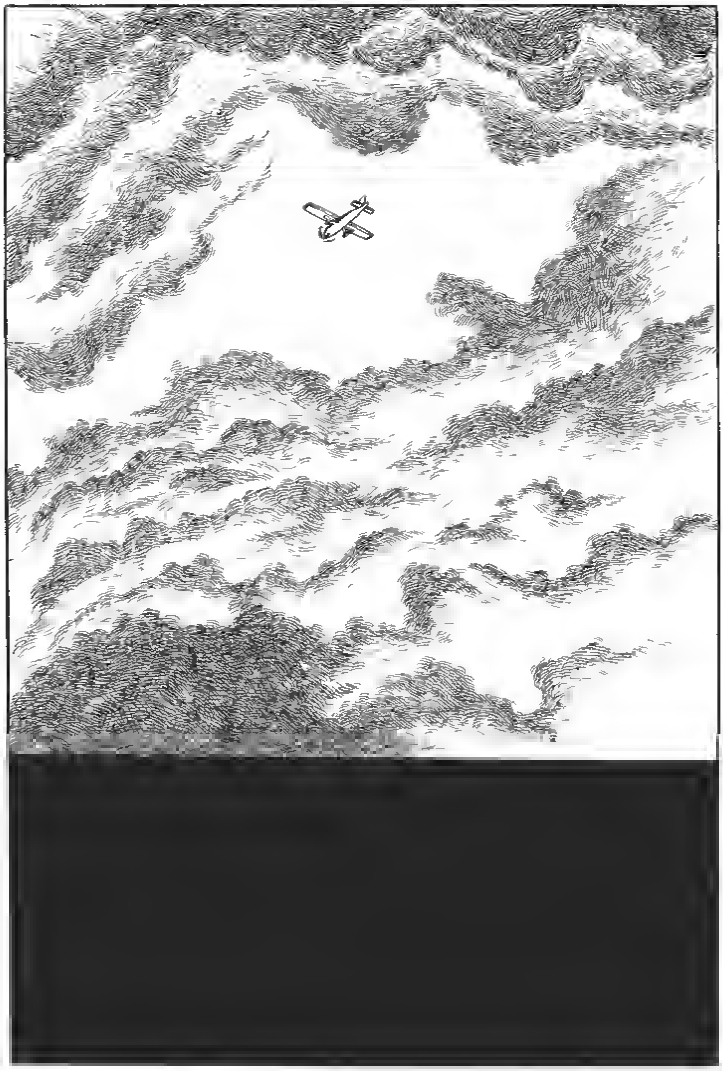

IF THEY CATCH YOU AGAIN, THEY'LL KILL YOU!
FOOL!! DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER?!
BETTER LOAD IT WITH BOOZE FIRST...
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, GOHON MATSU!
IT'S EASY! HERE'S THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL!
"STEP ONE, TAKING OFF"... HMM...
UH... UMM...
GRR! HRR! RRR!
THEY'RE HERE! GO!!
HRR! HRR! HRR!
GRR! RR!
RARR! GRAAH!!
WOO-HOO! IT'S WORKING!
VRROOOMM!!
VRRMM!
VRRMM!

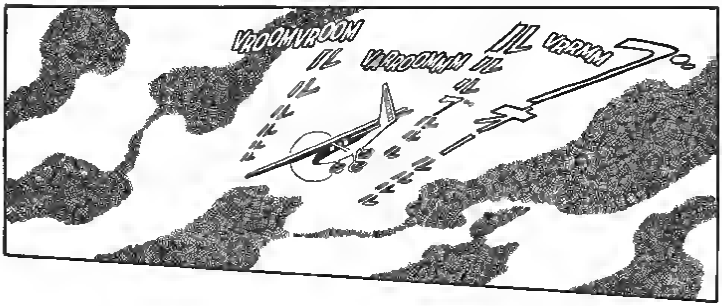

VROOMROOMROOMROOM
GRR! GRAHHH! HRR!
VROOOOMMM
AFTER HIM!! ISN'T THERE ANOTHER PLANE?!
VROOMROOMROOM
AIEEE!
VROOOO

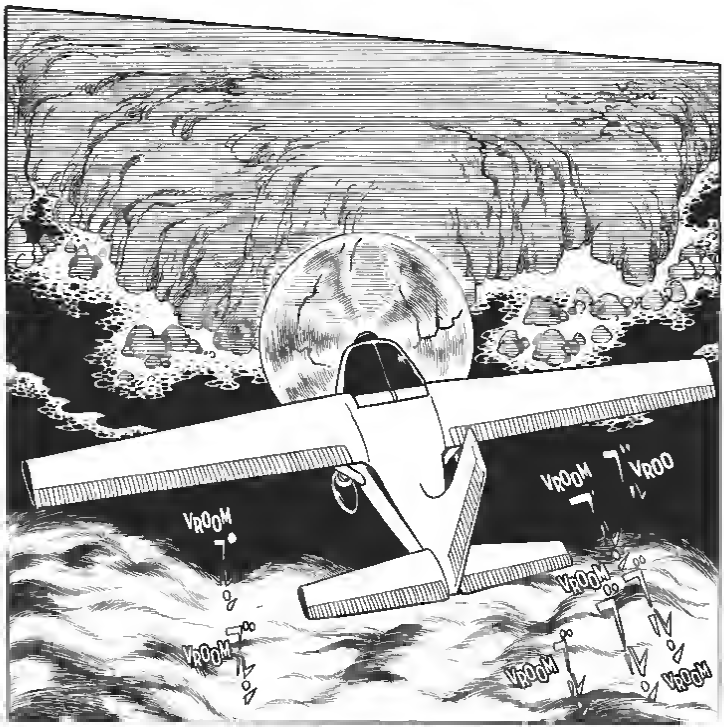

VWHOOSHH
VRRMMM
VWHOOSH
オオオー
VA-HOONNSHH!

CHAPTER 9

DEVELOPMENT (PART III)




VROOMVROOM
VROOMVROOM
VROOM


VROOM
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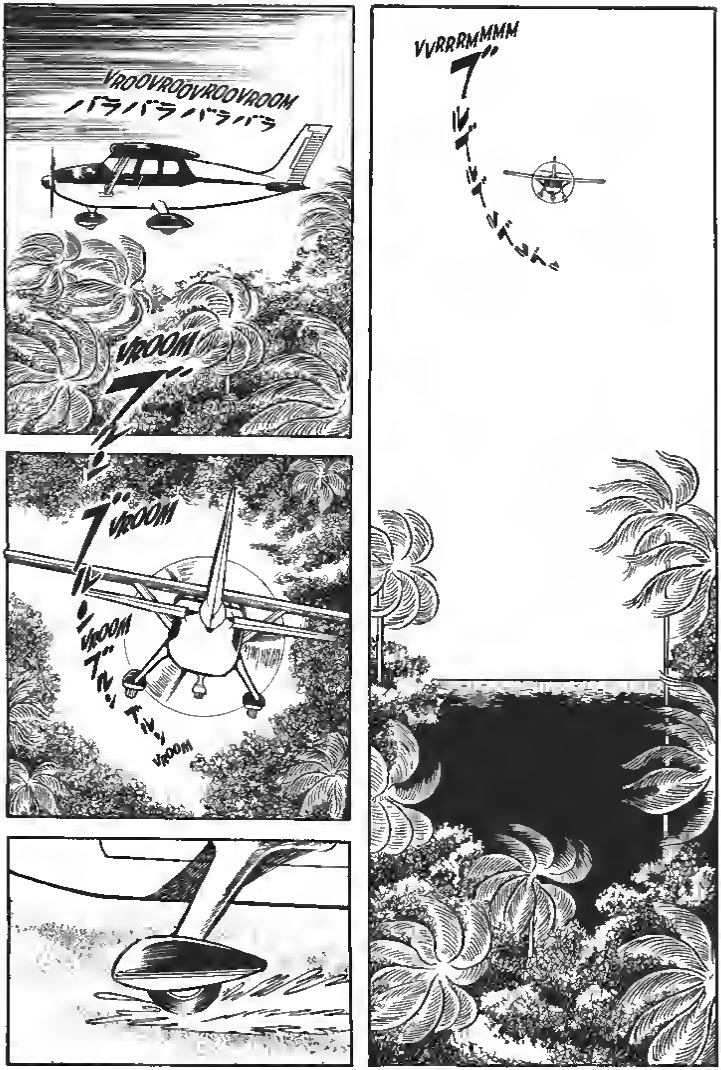
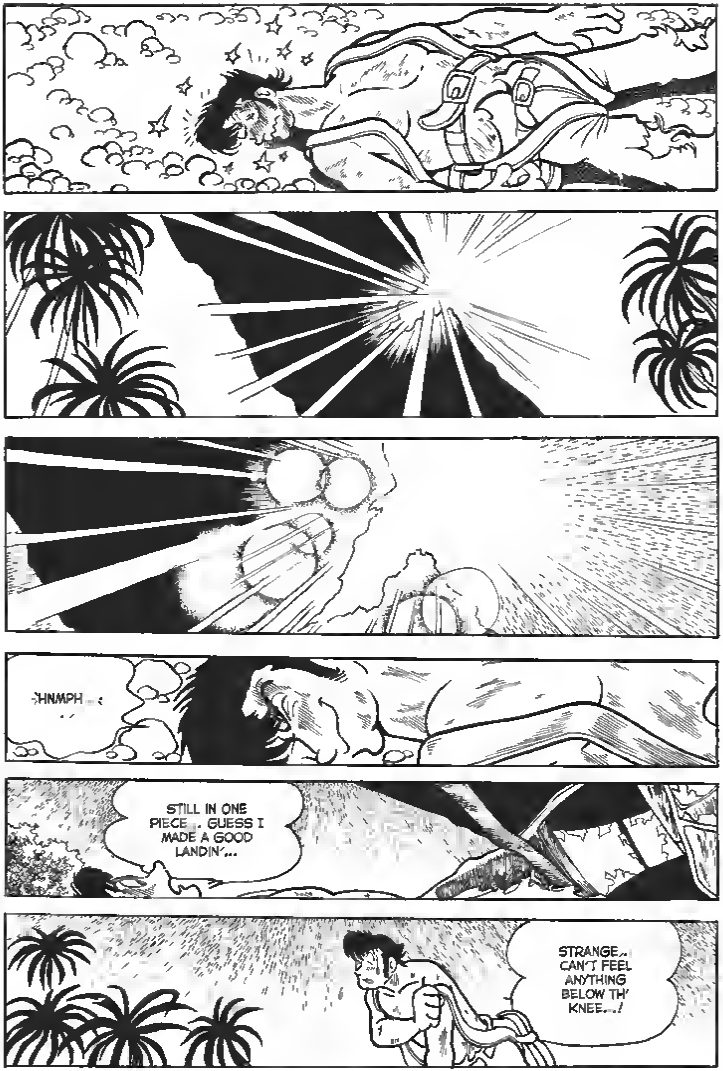
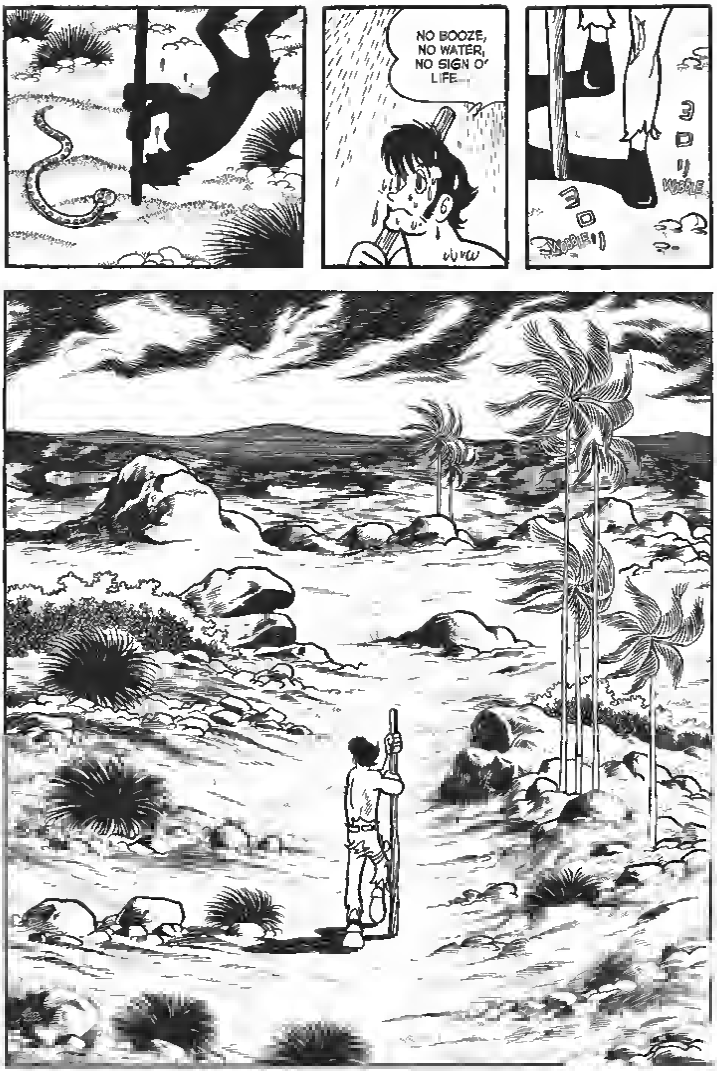

VROOVROOVROOVROOM
バラバラバラバラ
VROOM
VROOM
VROOM
VROOM
VROOM
VVRRRMMMM

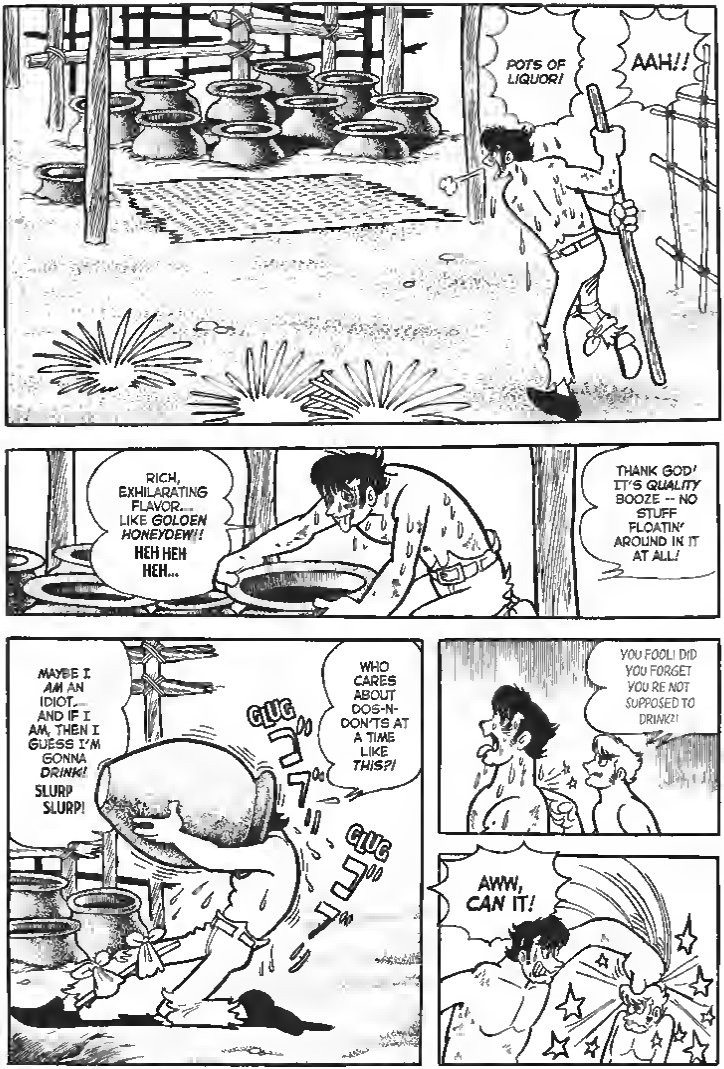
KRUNCH!
"I... IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH...
HNRGH!
"STRAP ON PARACHUTE, OPEN THE DOOR...
"COUNT TO THREE, AND JUMP..."

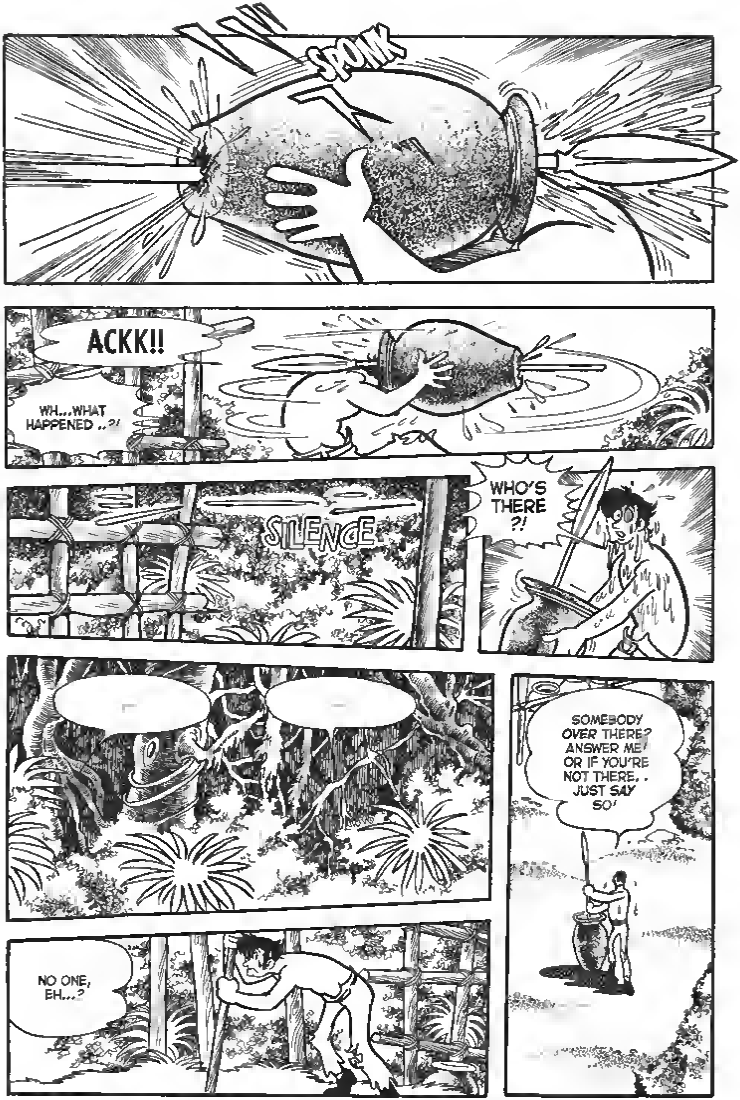

HNMPH...
STILL IN ONE PIECE... GUESS I MADE A GOOD LANDIN'...
STRANGE... CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING BELOW TH' KNEE...!

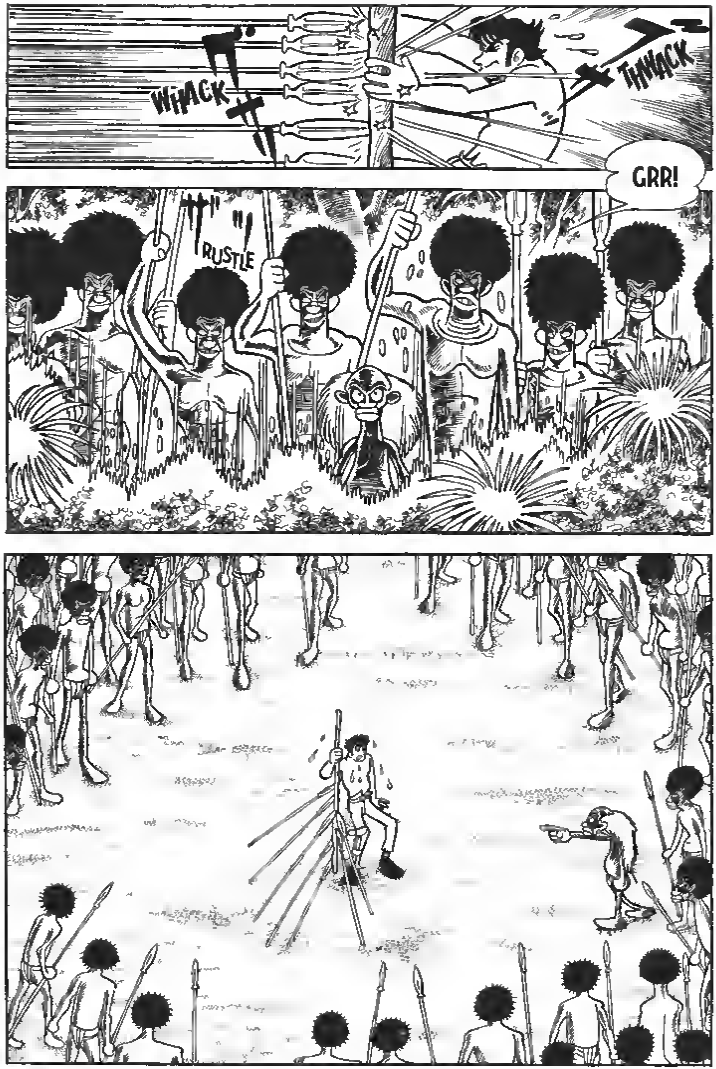
THINK MY LEG'S BROKEN!
AAH! YOW! OW OW!..
A DRINK..
TIMES LIKE THIS..
BOY, WHAT A MESS I'M IN!
AWW, HELL!!
DOCS SAY WHEN YA GOT A BROKEN BONE, BOOZE IS OFF LIMITS..
SO I CAN'T HAVE A DRINK TILL I'M HEALED UP, HUH?
BUT NO SUCH LUCK FOR ME!
SURE WOULD HELP CLEAR MY HEAD...


NO BOOZE, NO WATER, NO SIGN O' LIFE...
WWW
WHOOSH!
WHOOSH!

I HEAR PEOPLE *HALLUCINATE* JUST BEFORE THEY DIE...
IS IT CURTAINS FOR *ME*, RIGHT HERE?
WELL, I'M HALLUCINATIN' THE *SMELL OF BOOZE!*
I *DO* SMELL BOOZE...
IT'S NOT A HALLUCINATION!
IT MUST BE A *DISTILLERY!*
WHAT IS IT ..?
THE SMELL'S CARRYIN' ON THE WIND...
SPIRITS FROM SWEET POTATOES, OR FRUIT WINE...


POTS OF LIQUOR!
AAH!!
RICH, EXHILARATING FLAVOR... LIKE GOLDEN HONEYDEW!! HEH HEH HEH...
THANK GOD! IT'S QUALITY BOOZE -- NO STUFF FLOATIN' AROUND IN IT AT ALL!
MAYBE I AM AN IDIOT... AND IF I AM, THEN I GUESS I'M GONNA DRINK! SLURP SLURP!
WHO CARES ABOUT DOS-N-DON'TS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
GLUG
GLUG
YOU FOOL! DID YOU FORGET YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DRINK?!
AWW, CAN IT!


SPONK
ACKK!!
WH...WHAT HAPPENED..?!
SILENCE
WHO'S THERE?!
SOMEBODY OVER THERE? ANSWER ME! OR IF YOU'RE NOT THERE, JUST SAY SO!
NO ONE, EH...?


WHACK
THWACK
GRR!
RUSTLE

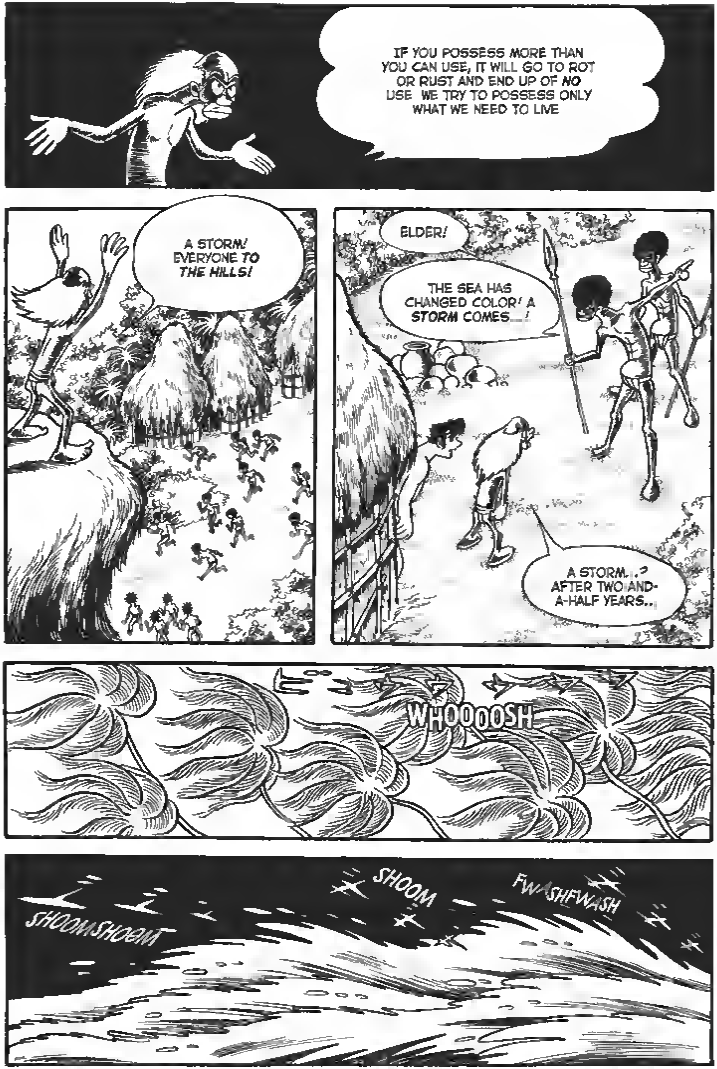
NOT KNOW DRINK FOR SALE. HOW MUCH?
WHAT MEAN "HOW MUCH"?
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? OWNERS OF THE BOOZE, I GUESS. I CAN BARELY UNDERSTAND THEM — SOUNDS LIKE THAT PIDGIN I'VE HEARD SAILORS USING ON THE DOCKS.
DRINK NOT FREE! YOU MUST TRADE FOR IT! IF YOU HAVE NO TRADE, WE TAKE YOUR LIFE!
WHAT SAY YOU?
?
HAVE GOLD COIN I TAKE FROM MAMOO IN POCKET...
WE WILL HAVE WHAT YOU WEAR! TAKE OFF AND GIVE TO ME!
DO NOT TRY TO TRICK! WHAT USE IS SUCH A THING?

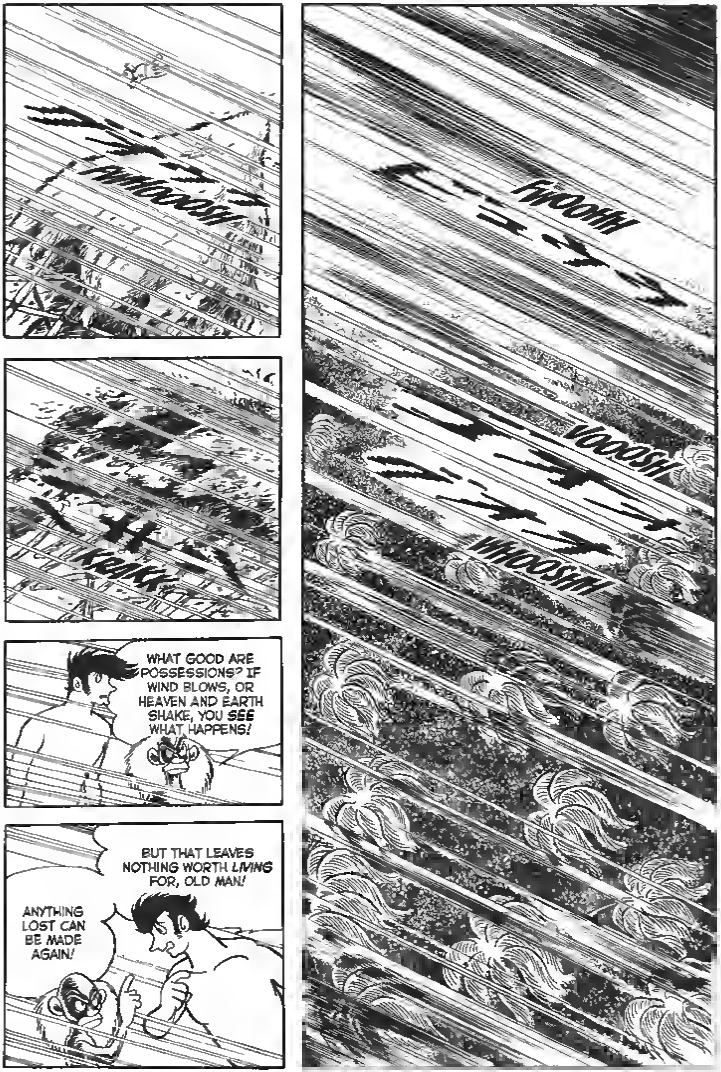
HEE HEE! HEE HEE HEE! HEE HEE HEE!
HURRY! GIVE!
YOU WANT MY PANTS?
MY UNDER-WEAR?!
HUH?
L-LEAVE ME THAT AT LEAST!
AND THE CLOTH YOU WEAR UNDER IT, TOO!
W-WAIT! UH... I GIVE SOMETHING MUCH BETTER! COME!
ON BEACH ...

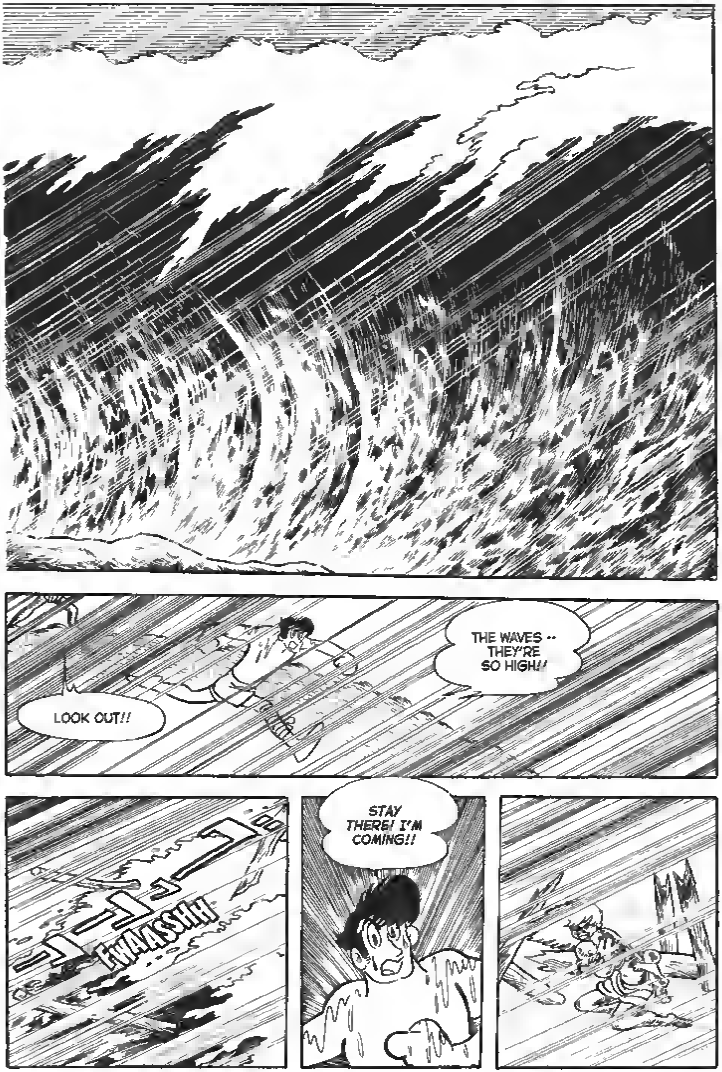
I HAVE SEEN THESE BIRDS WITHOUT FLOCK FLYING HIGH ABOVE, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY ONE I HAVE SEEN ON LAND! HOW GREAT THAT I HAVE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THIS!!
IS IT... SOME ILLUSION?!
NO GOOD? THEN I ALSO GIVE MY TWO DAUGHTERS. NOW YOU AGREE?
!
I WILL TRADE YOU .. TEN POTS OF DRINK A DAY FOR FIVE HUNDRED DAYS...
THAT SHOULD SATISFY YOU, YES?
COME, YOGA AND YOGI!!
YES! THEY ARE YOURS!
YOUR DAUGHTERS..?!
YOUR LEG IS INJURED? YOU MUST HEAL IT AT THE SPRING!
SOMEBODY HELLLP!

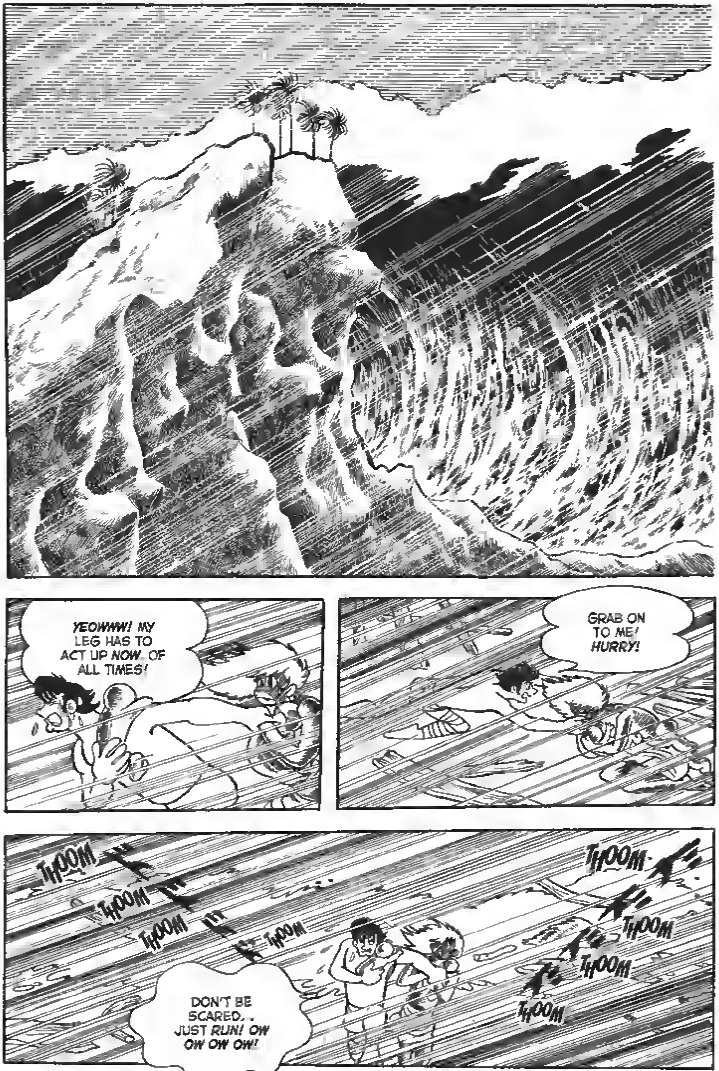
I WILL TEND TO HIM NOW!
NO! IT IS MY TURN!!
AIEEE!!
THEY'VE BROKEN FIVE OR SIX MORE BONES...!
YOUR WOUNDS ARE HEALED NOW, YOUNG ONE?
YOU ONLY GET DAY, YOGI! NIGHTTIME IS MINE!
NO, SISTER! YOU GET ODD DAYS OF WEEK, AND I GET EVEN...!

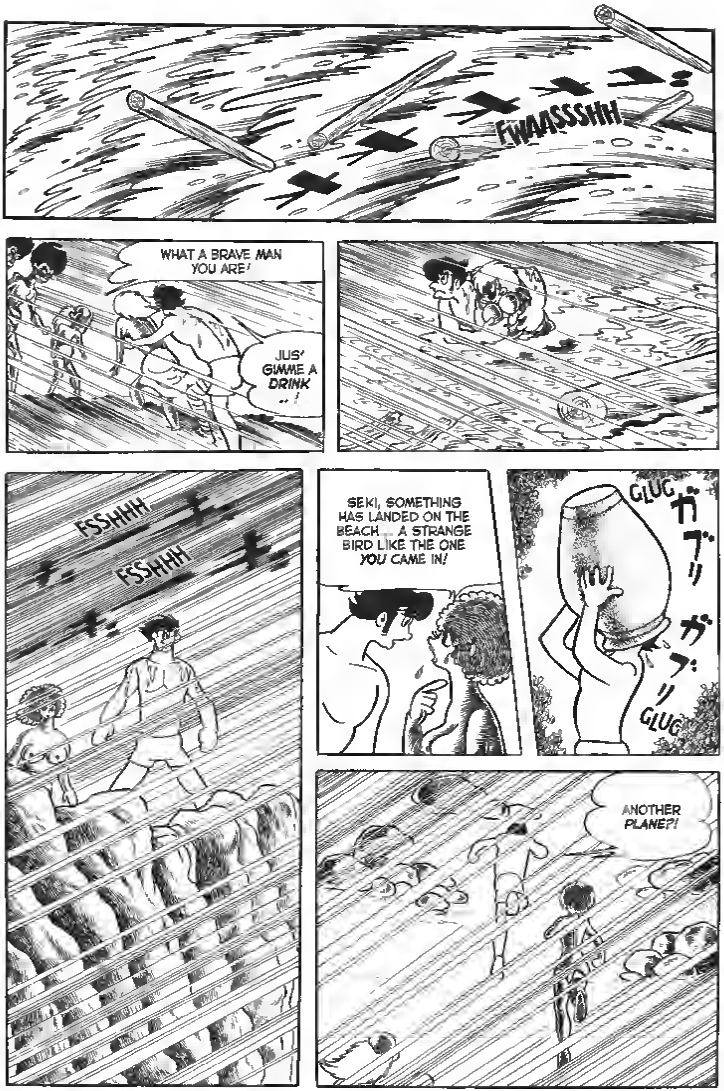
WHEN WE MUST EAT, SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE WILL VOLUNTEER TO BE EATEN BY ALL OF US,...
IF IT SHOULD HELP THE VILLAGE, THEN THEY ARE HAPPY TO DO SO.
ON THIS ISLAND, WE CANNOT GROW ANYTHING OF WORTH... DRINK IS OUR ONE RESOURCE
I SEE... THE REASON YOU DON'T HAVE MONEY, IS BECAUSE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, IT ISN'T GOOD FOR MUCH, HUH...?
WHAT IS THIS "MONEY" YOU SPEAK OF? IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU *WANT*, YOU JUST TRADE SOMETHING ELSE FOR IT!
TO BUY THINGS ...?
DON'T YOU HAVE *MONEY* ON THIS ISLAND?
NOT TRUE
I MEAN, THE ONE WITH THE MOST *THINGS* -- NO, THE ONE *BEST AT TRADING* -- BECOMES SUPREME.
THEN A PERSON'S WORTH...
SO YOU *BARTER*. TRADE ONE THING FOR ANOTHER THAT MAKES SENSE
MAYBE... BUT THERE'S STILL *DESIRE* AND *GREED*.
GREED MEANS *LOSS*.
THERE IS NO SKILL OR LACK OF SKILL IN TRADE. YOU TRADE *FAIRLY*, THEN EACH ONE BENEFITS, YES?


IF YOU POSSESS MORE THAN YOU CAN USE, IT WILL GO TO ROT OR RUST AND END UP OF NO USE WE TRY TO POSSESS ONLY WHAT WE NEED TO LIVE
A STORM! EVERYONE TO THE HILLS!
ELDER!
THE SEA HAS CHANGED COLOR! A STORM COMES...!
A STORM...? AFTER TWO AND-A-HALF YEARS..
WHOOOOSH
SHOOM
FWASHFWASH
SHOOMSHOOM


FWWOOOSH
KRAKK
WHAT GOOD ARE POSSESSIONS? IF WIND BLOWS, OR HEAVEN AND EARTH SHAKE, YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
BUT THAT LEAVES NOTHING WORTH LIVING FOR, OLD MAN!
ANYTHING LOST CAN BE MADE AGAIN!
FFOOHH
VOOOSH
WHOOSHH

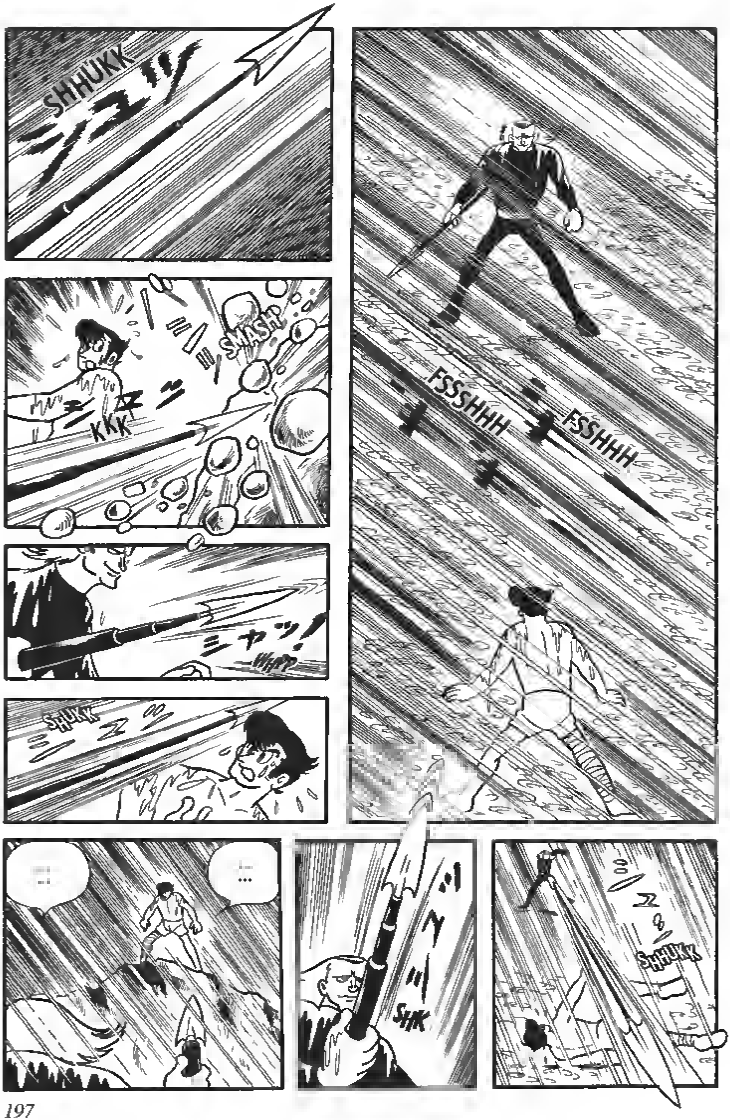

THE WAVES ·· THEY'RE SO HIGH!!
LOOK OUT!!
HWAASHH
STAY THERE! I'M COMING!!


YEOWWW! MY LEG HAS TO ACT UP NOW OF ALL TIMES!
GRAB ON TO ME! HURRY!
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
DON'T BE SCARED... JUST RUN! OW OW OW OW!

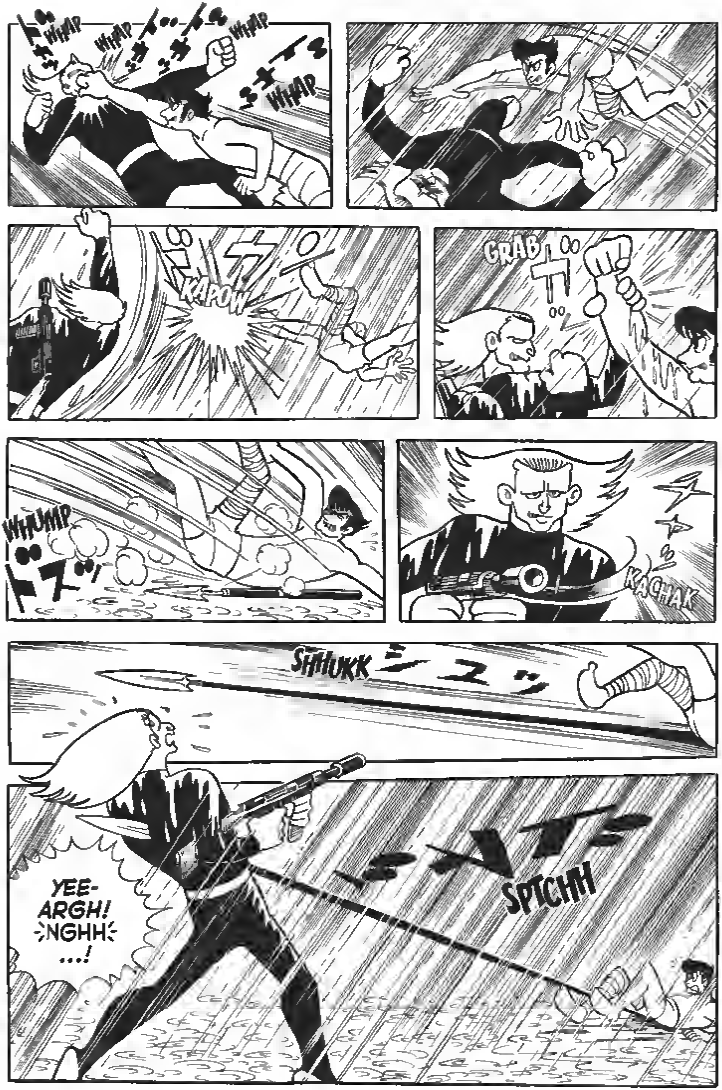

FWAASSSHH
WHAT A BRAVE MAN YOU ARE!
JUS' GIMME A DRINK ..!
FSSHHH
FSSHHH
SEKI, SOMETHING HAS LANDED ON THE BEACH ... A STRANGE BIRD LIKE THE ONE YOU CAME IN!
GLUG ガブリ ガブリ GLUG
ANOTHER PLANE?!

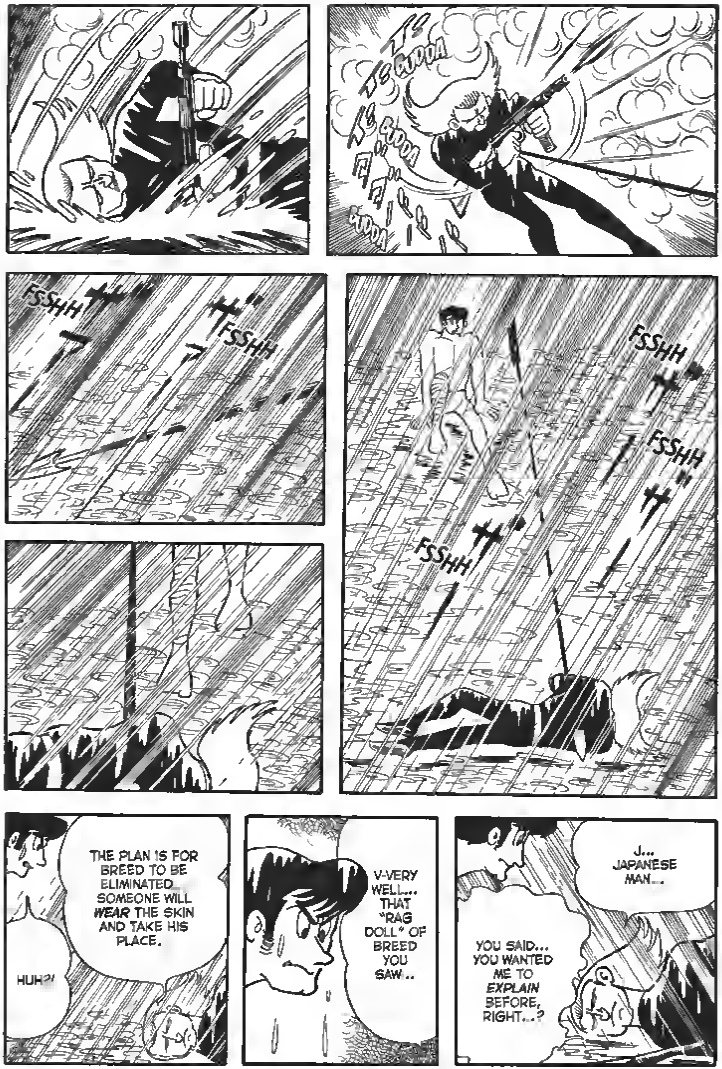
WH.. WHO...?
KOOOA
IT'S TRUE... SOMEBODY MUST'VE FLOWN HERE IN THIS..
FSSHH
WHO ARE YOU?!

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO A *WEATHER REPORT*, YOU DUMB BASTARD!
YOU CAME HERE NOW, IN *THIS* STORM...?
AN *ASSASSIN* FROM MAMOO, I'LL BET, HUH?
HEH HEH... I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! STARTING FROM MAMOO...
I SEARCHED *EVERY ISLAND* IN RADIUS OF MY CESSNA'S FLIGHT PATH!
DUN-WICH
BUDDA
I'LL SHOW YOU THE *TRUE* REASON TO FEAR ME!!
OH, I'M COMING DOWN TO YOU...
CAN'T FIGHT WITHOUT A *GUN*, HUH? CAN'T *KILL* A MAN UNLESS HE'S AT A DISTANCE?!
YOU MANIAC!

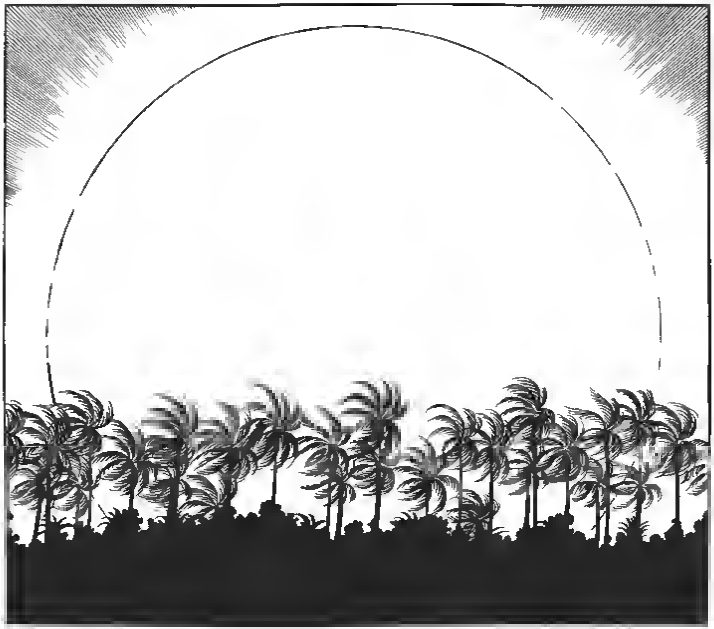

SHHUKK
SMASH
KKK
FSSHHH
FSSHHH
SHUKK
SHK
SHUKK

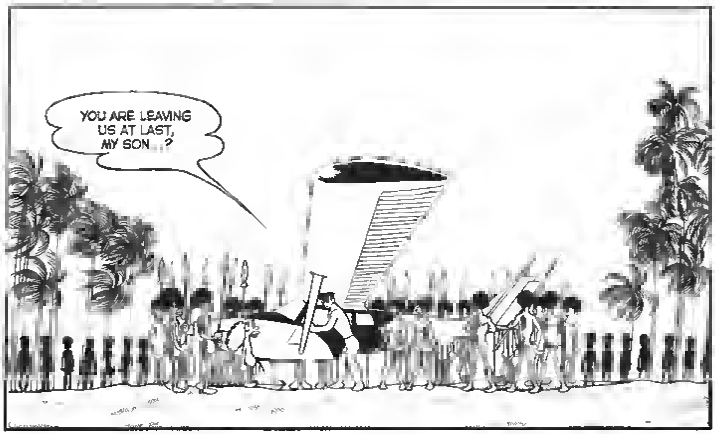
HEH
SHHUKKK シャキッ!!
WHAP
KOMK
GYAAH!!


WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
GRAB
KA-POW
WHAMP
KACHAK
SHHUKK
YEE-
ARGH!
NGHH
...!
SPICHH


FSSHH
FSSHH
FSSHH
FSSHH
THE PLAN IS FOR BREED TO BE ELIMINATED. SOMEONE WILL *WEAR* THE SKIN AND TAKE HIS PLACE.
HUH?!
V-VERY WELL... THAT "RAG DOLL" OF BREED YOU SAW...
J... JAPANESE MAN...
YOU SAID... YOU WANTED ME TO *EXPLAIN* BEFORE, RIGHT...?

IT'S CERTAIN.. BREED WILL *DIE* THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW...
MISS ZEPHYRUS HAS AN EVEN MORE *INSIDIOUS* PLAN IN STORE...
QUITE THE OPPOSITE ...
DOES SHE WANT BREED'S FORTUNE?
TAKE BREED'S PLACE AND *THEN* WHAT? WHAT THE HELL IS ZEPHYRUS PLANNING?!
HE'S DEAD...
DUNWICH! HEY, I NEED TO KNOW *MORE!*
WHUMP
THIS IS AWFUL!
FSSSHHH
MR. BREED WILL BE *MURDERED* THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?!
FSSSHHH
I'VE GOTTA LET HIM KNOW SOMEHOW...
WHAT SHOULD I *DO..?*




YOU ARE LEAVING US AT LAST, MY SON...?

MY DAUGHTERS HAVE BECOME *USED* TO YOU. YOUR LEAVING WILL BE HARD FOR THEM. COULD YOU NOT TAKE THEM *WITH* YOU?
BE WELL, OLD MAN...!
YUP. . A FRIEND OF MINE'S IN *DANGER!*
YOU MAY ALWAYS *RETURN* HERE, IF YOU WISH. WE HAVE NO MURDER, CRIME, SUFFERING OR HOSTILITY LIKE OTHER CIVILIZATIONS DO
G-GIMME A BREAK! I'M NOT SURE I COULD EVEN *TAKE OFF* WITH THESE TWO ABOARD!
SEKI...!
THEY LIVED THEIR LIVES AS TRADERS, LIKE WE DO. IF OTHER NATIONS WERE TO *LEARN* FROM US, THEY WOULD BE SURE TO ELIMINATE *CONFLICT* AND FIND *HAPPINESS*
YEAH, THAT *IS* AMAZING!
RIGHT, OLD MAN. . AND IF I JUST HAVE SOME *BOOZE*, I DON'T NEED ANYTHIN' ELSE!
OUR ANCESTORS WERE CALLED THE PEOPLE OF *MOO*. NONE HAD THIS "MONEY" YOU SPEAK OF, BUT THEY WERE A GREAT NATION.

SEE YA, OLD MAN!
YOU'D BETTER STAND BACK!
BYE YOGI AND YOGA...!
VRRMM
VRRMM
BWAAHH!
BWAAHH!
LET GO! YOU'LL BE KILLED!
AY-YI-YI! THEY TORE OFF A PIECE...!
VRR
VRRRRMM
WELL DONE!
WE TRADED OUR CHASTITY FOR THIS!
A KEEPSAKE, MY DAUGHTERS?!